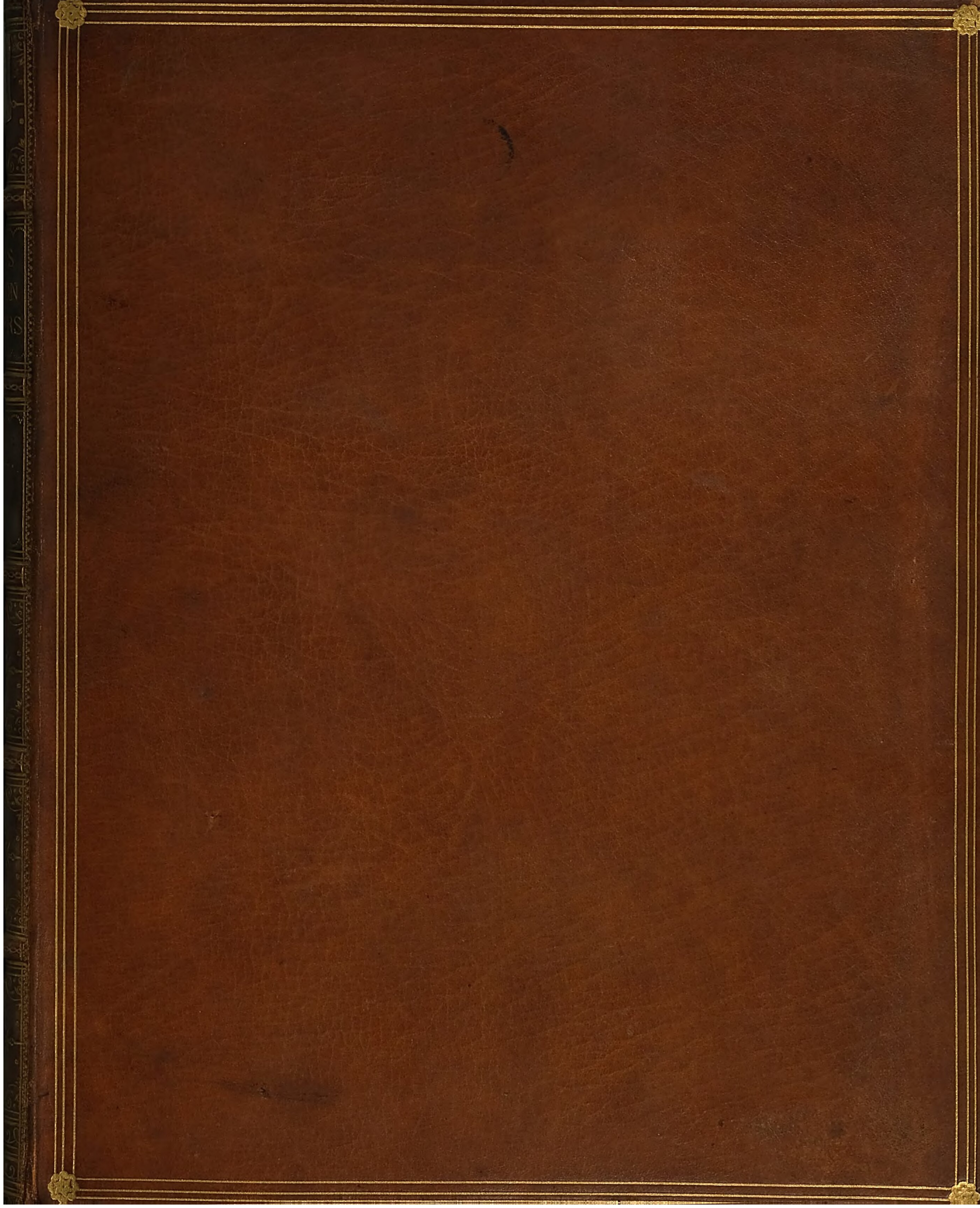




The background of the entire image is a traditional marbled paper pattern. It features large, irregular, light blue-grey spots with a fine, pebbled texture, set against a background of swirling, wavy lines in deep red, ochre yellow, and dark green. The overall effect is organic and fluid. A central rectangular label with a decorative border is pasted onto the paper.

Aus der
Büchersammlung des Capitäns
Th. Dempster Gordon.

Geschenk des k. Forstrathes G. Dürig
an die k. Bibliothek.



Ep.
9.
1^a
2

Original Letters

1840

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Original Letters,

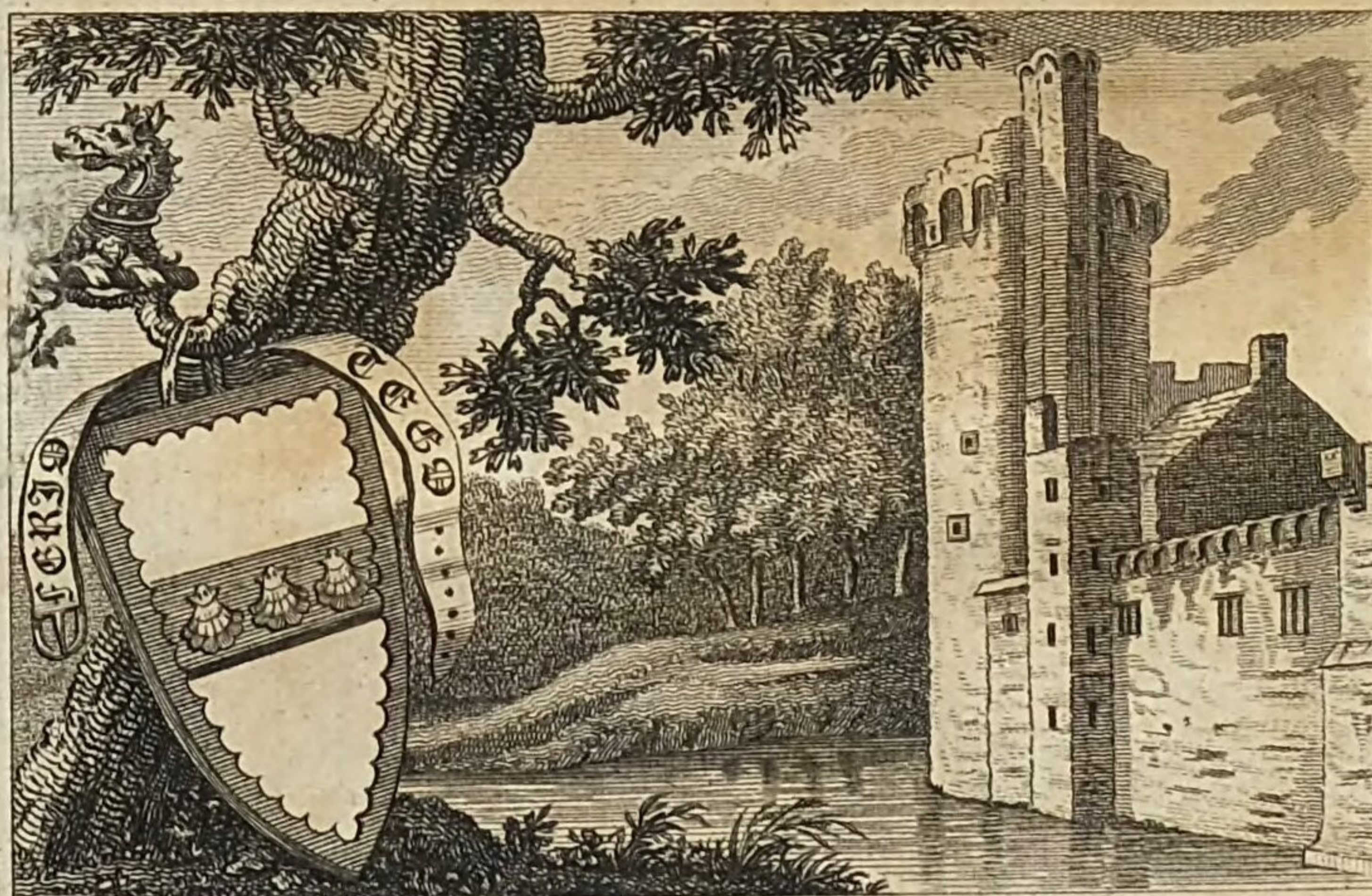
WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.



CASTER TOWER.

LONDON,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Water-noster-Row.

1787.



From a Painting on Glass in the Dominican Church at St. Omer's.

Cook, sculp.

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

By various Persons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

CONTAINING

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody,
but hitherto dark, PERIOD of our HISTORY;

AND

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewise
the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE:

Digested in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;

WITH

NOTES, Historical and Explanatory;

AND

Authenticated by Engravings of AUTOGRAPHS, FAC SIMILES, PAPER-MARKS,
and SEALS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

By JOHN FENN, Esq. M.A. and F.A.S.

“Tempora mutantur.”

“Litera scripta manet.”

THE SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

VOL. II.

LONDON,

Printed for G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, in Pater-noster-Row.

MDCCCLXXXVII.

ORIGINAL LETTERS

HENRY VI EDWARD IV

RICHARD III

By various Persons of Rank or Consequence



Manuscript of the original letters of Henry VI, Edward IV, and Richard III, preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

These letters are of great historical value, and are preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

They are of great value to the student of English history, and are preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

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ORIGINAL LETTERS.

EDWARD IV.

1468 - - - - - 1483.

8 - - - - - 23 E. IV.

VOL. II.

B

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

L E T T E R XIII.

*To my ryght reu'end and worchepfull Modyr Margaret Paston
dwellyng at Caster be thys delyu'yd in hast.*

RYTH reu'end and worchepfull Modyr I recom'and me on to you as humbylly as I can thynk desyryng most hertly to her of you' welfare and herts ese whyche I pray God fend yow as hastyly as eny hert can thynk Ples yt yow to wete y^t at the making of thys byll my brodyr and I and all ou' felawshap wer in good helle blyssyd be God As for the gydyng her in thys contre it is as worchepfull as all the world can devyse it and ther wer neu' ¹ englyshe men had so good cher owt of Inglong that eu' I herd of.

As for tydyngs her but if it be of the fest I can non fend yow favyng y^t my Lady ² Margaret was maryd on Sonday last past
at

We have in this Letter a most curious and authentic Account of the Marriage of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, with Margaret, Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and sister of Edward IV. and of the subsequent Diversions exhibited at Bruges in honour of it, written by John Paston, (Pl. IV. N^o 12.) an eye-witness, who, with his Brother Sir John Paston, Knight, attended in the Retinue of the Princess.
The

EDWARD IV.

LETTER XXIII.

*To my right reverend and worshipful Mother, Margaret Paston,
dwelling at Caster, be this delivered in haste.*

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Mother, I recommend me unto you as humbly as I can think, desiring most heartily to hear of your welfare and heart's ease, which I pray God send you as hastily as any heart can think.

Please it you to weet, that at the making of this bill, my Brother, and I, and all our Fellowship, were in good heele [*health*], blessed be God.

As for the Guiding here in this Country, it is as worshipful as all the world can devise, and there were never ¹ Englishmen had so good chear out of England, that ever I heard of.

As for Tidings here, but if [*unless*] it be of the Feast, I can none send you; saving, that my Lady ² Margaret was married

The Description here given affords us an high idea of the Splendour of the Court of the Duke, and of the Politeness of the Courtiers.

¹ This is the opinion of a true Englishman.

² Margaret Plantagenet, Sister of Edward IV. according to this Account, was married on Sunday the 3d of July, 1468, 8 E. IV. For a more particular History of this Princess and the Duke, the Reader is referred to the Description of the Plate wherein they are both represented.

at a towne y^t is callyd the Dame iij myle owt of ³ Brugys at v of the klok in the morn̄g and fche was browt the fame day to Bruggys to hyr dener and ther fche was receyvyd as worchepfully as all the world coud devyse as w^t prefeffion w^t Ladys and Lordys best befeyn of eny pepyll that ever I fye or herd of many Pagentys wer pleyed in hyr wey in Bryggys to hyr wel comyng the best y^t eu' I fye And the fame Sonday my Lord the ⁴ Bastard took upon hym to anfwere xxiiij knyts and Gentylen w^t in viij dayes at Jostys of pefe and when y^t they wer anfweryd they xxiiij and hym felve fchold torney w^t othyr xxv the next day aftyr whyche is on monday next com̄g and they that have jostyd w^t hym into thys day have ben as rychely befeyn and hymfelve also as clothe of gold and fylk and fylvyr and goldfmyths werk myght mak hem for of fycheger and gold and perle and ftanys they of the Dwkys coort neythyr Gentylen nor Gentylwomen they want non for w^t owt y^t they have it by wyfhys by my trowthe I herd nevyr of fo gret plente as ther is.

Thys day my Lord ⁵ Scalys justyd w^t a Lord of thys contre but not w^t the Bastard for they mad promyse at London that non of them bothe fhold never dele w^t othyr in armys but the Bastard was on' of the Lords y^t browt the Lord Scalys in to the
feld

³ A City and Port Town in Flanders.

⁴ Anthony, Count de la Roche, called the Bastard of Burgundy, was a natural Son of Duke Philip the Good, by Johanna of Prulles, famous for his wit, courage, and polite accomplishments. He was born in 1421, and died in 1504.

⁵ Anthony Widville, or Woodville, Lord Scales, &c. and afterwards Earl Rivers, Son of Sir Richard Widville, by Jaqueline of Luxemburgh, Duchefs Dowager of Bedford,

on Sunday last past at a Town that is called The Dame, three miles out of ³ Bruges, at five of the clock in the morning; and she was brought the same day to Bruges to her dinner; and there she was received as worshipfully as all the world could desire; as with proceffion with Ladies, and Lords, best befeen of any people, that ever I saw or heard of. Many Pageants were played in her way in Bruges to her welcoming, the best that ever I saw; and the same day my Lord, ⁴ the Bastard, took upon him to answer ²⁴ Knights and Gentlemen, within 8 days at Jufts of Peace; and when that they were answered, they ²⁴ and himself should turney with other ²⁵ the next day after, which is on Monday next coming; and they that have jufted with him into this day, have been as richly befeen, and himself also, as cloth of Gold, and Silk, and Silver, and Goldsmiths work, might make them; for of fuch Gear, and Gold, and Pearl, and Stones, they of the Duke's Court, neither Gentlemen nor Gentlewomen, they want none; for without [*unless*] that they have it by wishes, by my truth, I heard never of fo great plenty as here is.

This day my Lord ⁵ Scales jufted with a Lord of this country, but not with the Bastard; for they made (*a*) promise at London, that none of them both should never deal with other in arms; but the Bastard was one of the Lords, that brought the Lord

ford, and Brother of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. was born about 1441, and became the most distinguished Warrior, Statesman, and most learned Gentleman, of his time. In the 7 Edward IV. he challenged and vanquished the Bastard of Burgundy in a grand and solemn Just in Smithfield; at which time the promise mentioned in this Letter was made. This accomplished Nobleman was beheaded at Pomfret, in June 1483, by the command of the Protector, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

Scales

feld and of mysfortwne an horſe ſtrake my Lord Baſtard on the lege and hathe hurt hym ſo fore that I can thynk he ſhalbe of no power to acomplyſhe up hys armys and that is gret pete for by my trowthe I trow God mad neu' a mor worchepfull knyght. And as for the Dwkys coort as of Lords Ladys and Gentyllwomen Knyts Sqwyers and Gentyllmen I hert neu' of non lyek to it ſave Kyng Artourys cort and by my trowthe I have no wyt nor remēbrans to wryte to yow half the worchep that is her but y^t lakyth as it comyth to mynd I ſhall tell yow when I come home whyche I tryſt to God ſhal not belong to for we depart owt of Brygys homward on twyſday next comyng and all folk y^t cam w^t my Lady of Burgoyn owt of Ingland except ſyche as ſhall abyd her ſtyll w^t hyr whyche I wot well ſhall be but fewe. We depart the ſoner for the ⁶ Dwk hathe word that the ⁷ frenſhe Kyng is p^poſyd to mak wer upon hym haſtlyly and that he is w^tin iiij or v dayis journey of Brugys and the Dwk rydyth on twyſday next comyng forward to met w^t hym God geve hym good ſped and all hys for by my trowthe they are the goodlyeſt felawſhep the eu' I cam among and beſt can behave them and moſt lyek Gentyllmen.

Othyr tydyngs have we non her but that the Dwke of ⁸ Som[']ſet and all hys bands depertyd welbeſeyn owt of Brugys a day befor that my Lady the Dwches cam thedyr and they ſey her

⁶ Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, was born in 1433, and was ſlain in battle, near Nancy, in Lorrain, in 1477.

⁷ Charles VII. It is worthy of Remark how cautious the Writers of theſe times were not to give the title of King of France, to the Ruler of that Kingdom, but to ſtyle him the French King. In this place, (and I have obſerved it in others) the word "Kyng" (intending

Scales into the field ; and of misfortune an horse struck my Lord Bastard on the leg, and hath hurt him so fore, that I can think he shall be of no power to accomplish up his arms ; and that is great pity, for by my truth I trow [*think*] God made never a more worshipful Knight.

And as for the Duke's Court, as of Lords, Ladies and Gentlewomen, Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen, I heard never of none like to it, save King Arthur's Court. And by my truth, I have no wit nor remembrance to write to you, half the worship that is here ; but what lacketh, as it cometh to mind I shall tell you, when I come home, which I trust to God shall not be long tofore. We depart out of Bruges homeward on Tuesday next coming, and all Folk that came with my Lady of Burgoyne [*Burgundy*] out of England, except such as shall abide here still with her, which I wot [*know*] well shall be but few.

We depart the sooner, for the ⁶ Duke hath word that the ⁷ French King is purposed to make war upon him hastily, and that he is within four or five days journey of Bruges, and the Duke rideth, on Tuesday next coming, forward to meet with him ; God give him good speed, and all his ; for by my truth they are the goodliest Fellowship that ever I came amongst, and best can behave them, and most like Gentlemen.

Other Tidings have we none here, but that the Duke of ⁸ Somerset, and all his Bands departed well beseen out of Bruges a day before that my Lady the Duchess came thither, and they

(intending to go on with, of France) was written without consideration, and then, on observing it, immediately crossed out, and "Frenshe Kyng" put in its place.

⁸ Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, an Adherent to Henry VI. and his Queen Margaret, commanded at the battle of Tewkesbury, in 1471 ; which being lost, he fled to Sanctuary, whence he was taken and beheaded.

fay

her that he is to Qwen Margaret y^t was and shal no mor come her ayen nor be holpyn by the Dwk.

No mor but I beseche yow of you^r blyssyng as lowly as I can whyche I beseche yow forget not to geve me eu' day onys And Modyr I beseche yow y^t ye wolbe good mastras to my lytyll man and to se y^t he go to scole I sent my cosyn Dawbeney v^s by Callys man for to bye for hym fyche ger as he nedyth and modyr I pray yow thys byll may recomend me to my Suftyrs bothe and to y^e Mastyr my cosyn Dawbeney Syr Jamys S^r John Style and to pray hym to be good Mastyr to lytyll^o Jak and to lerne hym well and I pray yow y^t thys byll may recomand me to all you^r folkys and my wellwyllers.

And I pray God fend yow you^r herts desyr.

Wretyn at Bruggys the fryday next after Seynt^{io} Thom's.

Yo^r. Sone and humbyll Servñt,

12 by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

J. Paston, p^e ponger.

Paper Mark,
A Catharine Wheel.
Pl. x. N^o 6.

The Seal is round, having a Fleur de Lys with an Annulet by the side of it.

ℓ € ℓ-

* This Little John, whose school Education, J. Paston seems so anxious about, must have been born before 1464, and most probably died under age, if he was his Son, as Sir William Paston, Knight, who as some pedigrees state was born in 1464, stands in

say here, that he is to Queen Margaret that was, and shall no more come here again, nor be holpen by the Duke.

No more, but I beseech you of your blessing as lowly as I can, which I beseech you forget not to give me every day once; and, Mother, I beseech you that ye will be good mistress to my little man, and to see that he go to school.

I sent my Cousin Dawbeney 5^s by Calle's man, for to buy for him such gear as he needeth: and, Mother, I pray you this bill may recommend me to my Sisters both, and to the Master, my Cousin Dawbeney, Sir James, Sir John Style, and to pray him to be good Master to little⁹ Jack, and to learn him well; and I pray you that this bill may recommend me to all your Folks, and to my Well Willers; and I pray God send you your heart's desire.

Written at Bruges the Friday next after Saint¹⁰ Thomas.

Your Son and humble Servant,

J. PASTON, the Younger.

Bruges,
Friday, 8th of July,
1468, 8 E. IV.

in the Pedigree as heir to his Father; but I rather think that J. Paston had not been married at this time, and that this "lytyll man" was not his son.

¹⁰ This must mean either the 3d or 7th day of July, the one being the Translation of St. Thomas the Apostle, the other of St. Thomas à Becket. I believe it means the latter.

L E T T E R M J U.

To my moost worshipfull Maist' Sr. John Paston knyght.

MY moost woorshupfull and moost speciall Maist' with all my f'vyce moost lowly I recomande unto your gode Maistirship besechyng you moost tenderly to see me sumwhat rewardid for my labour in the Grete Booke which I wright unto your seide gode Maistirship I have often tymes writyn to Pampyng accordyng to yo^r desire to enfo'me you hou I have labourd in wrytyngs for you. And I see wele he speke not to your Maist'ship of hit and God knowith I ly in ^r Seint wayer at grete costs and amongs right unrefonable askers, I movid this mat' to Sr. Thomas late and he tolde me he wolde move your Maistirship therein, which Sr. Thomas desirid me to remembir wele what I have had in money at soondry tymes of hym.

(Then comes the Account, as stated more at large in the following Bill.)

And in espiall I beseche you to sende me for Almes oon of yo^r olde Gownes which will cou'tirvale much of the p'myffes I wote wele,

Before the invention of Printing, the number of Writers and Copiers was very great; most monasteries and religious houses having an office called a Scriptorium, wherein several Writers were almost constantly employed in copying Books on various subjects, Missals and Books of Psalms, &c. richly and elegantly adorned with Illuminations, &c. Men of Fortune and Learning likewise occasionally employed Copiers to transcribe Books for their Libraries.

W. Ebe-

L E T T E R XXIV.

To my most worshipful Master, Sir John Paston, Knight.

MY most worshipful and most special Master, with all my service, most lowly I recommend (*me*) unto your good Mastership, beseeching you most tenderly to see me somewhat rewarded for my labour in the Great Book which I wrote unto your said good Mastership; I have oftentimes written to Pampyng, according to your desire, to inform you how I have laboured in writings for you, and I see well he spake not to your Mastership of it; and God knoweth I lie in¹ Sanctuary at great costs, and amongst right unreasonable askers.

I moved this matter to Sir Thomas (*Lewis*) lately, and he told me he would move your Mastership therein, which Sir Thomas desired me to remember well what I have had in money at sundry times of him.

(Then comes the Account, as stated more at large in the following Bill.)

And in especial I beseech you to send me for Alms one of your old Gowns, which will countervail much of the premises I

W. Ebesham, (Pl. v. N^o 20.) was one of those who pursued this employment, and wrote a good hand; he complains of poverty, and petitions to have his Account discharged.

One of the Articles in the bill is dated 30th of October 1468, 8 E. IV. what follows therefore was done after that day, so that perhaps the bill was not delivered, nor this Letter written, before the next year, 1469.

¹ Why he was in Sanctuary I know not, but it appears that it was expensive being there

wele, and I shall be yours while I lyve and at yor comandement
I have grete myst of it God knows whom I besече p'f've you
from all adu'site, I am sumwhat acqueyntid with it.

Yo^r. verry mā,

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 10 $\frac{1}{4}$.

W. Ebsm'm.

Wheels, &c. are a part of the Paper
Mark, the other Part is cut off.
Pl. x. N^o 7.

* Folowyng apperith p'celly dyvers and soondry maner of Wri-
tyngs which I William Ebesham have wreetyn for my gode
and woorshupfull Maist^r Sr. John Paston and what money I
have Resceyvid and what is unpaide.

" ffirst I did write to his Maist ^r ship a litill booke	}	s.	d.
of Pheefyk for which I had paide by Sir Thomas			xx
Leevys in Westm' - - - - -			

" Itm I had for the wrytyng of half the Prevy seale	}		
of Pampyng - - - - -			viii

" It' for the wrytynge of the seid hole ' prevy	}		
seale of Sr. Thom's - - - - -			ij

" Itm I wrote viij of the ² Witneffis in p'chement	}		
but aftir xiiij ^d a peece for which I was paide of Sr.			x
Thomas - - - - -			

" Itm while my seide Maist^r was over the see in
Midfom't'me

Calle fett me a warke to wryte two tymes the	}		
prevy seale in papir and then aft' cleerely in p'chement			iiiij viij

And

* We are here furnished with a curious Account of the Expences attending the transcrib-
ing of Books previous to the noble art of Printing. At this time the common wages of a
Mechanic were with diet 4d. and without diet 5d. $\frac{1}{2}$ or 6d. a day; we here see that a Wri-
ter received 2d. for writing a folio leaf, three of which he could with ease finish in a day,
and

wot well; and I shall be yours while I live, and at your commandment; I have greatly missed of it God knows, whom I beseech preserve you from all adversity; I am somewhat acquainted with it.

Your very man,

W^m. EBESHAM.

About 1469,
9 E. IV.

* Following appeareth, parcelly, divers and fundry manner of writings, which I William Ebesham have written for my good and worshipful Master, Sir John Paston, and what money I have received, and what is unpaid.

"First, I did write to his Mastership a little Book of Phyfic, for which I had paid by Sir Thomas Lewis, in Westminster - - - - -	}	s.	d.
			20

"Item, I had for the writing of half the Privy Seal, of Pampyng - - - - -	}		8
---	---	--	---

"Item, for the writing of the said whole Privy Seal, of Sir Thomas - - - - -	}	2	
--	---	---	--

"Item, I wrote eight of the Witneses in parchment but after 14d a-piece, for which I was paid of Sir Thomas - - - - -	}	10	
---	---	----	--

"Item, while my said Master was over the sea in Midsummer term, Calle fet me at work to write two times the Privy Seal in paper, and then after clearly in parchment - - - - -	}	4	8
--	---	---	---

and I should think that many quick writers at that time would fill four, five, or even six in a day, if so, the pay of these greatly exceeded that of common handicraft men.

¹ Some Grant, or other matter, which was to pass the Privy Seal.

² The Depositions of Witneses.

And

And also wrote the same tyme oon mo of the leng- th Witneffis and other dyvers and necessary wrytyngs for which he p'misid me x ^s . whereof I had of Calle but iiij ^s viij ^d car. v ^s iiij ^d - - - - -	s.	d.
“ I refceyvid of S ^r . Th. at Westm' penultio die 3 Oct. A ^o viij ^o - - - - -	v	iiij
Itm I did write to quairs of papir of witneffis eu'y quair conteynyng xiiij leves aft' ij ^d a leff - - -	iiij	viiij
“ Itm as to the 4 Grete Booke - - - - -		
ffirst for wrytyng of the Coronacon and other tretys of Knyghthode in that quaire which conteyneth a xiiij levis and more ij ^d a lef - - - - -	ij	ij
“ Itm for the tretys of Werre in iiij books which conteyneth lx levis aftir ij ^d a leaff - - - - -	x	
“ Itm for 5 Othea pistill, which conteyneth xliij leves - - - - -	vij	ij
Itm for the Chalengs and the Acts of Armes which is xxviij ^{ti} lefs - - - - -	iiij	viiij
“ Itm for de 6 Regie p'ncipu' which conteyneth xlv ^{ti} leves, aftir a peny a leef, which is right wele worth	iiij	ix
“ Itm for 7 Rubrifshyng of all the booke	iiij	iiij
	lxiiij	v

3 This exactly ascertains the Date of this Receipt to be the 30th of October, 1468, 8 E. IV.

4 This Great Book seems to have contained various Treatises.

5 Othea means a Treatise on Wisdom.

6 De Regimine Principum.—A Treatise concerning the Government of Princes, and by being written for a penny each leaf, I suppose it was in quarto.

“ S'm

And also I wrote at the same time one or more of the longest Witnesſes, and other diuerſe and neceſſary Writings, for which he promiſed me 10s (whereof I had of Calle but 4s. 8d.) due 5s. 4d. - - - -	s.	d.
	5	4
“ Item, I received of Sir Thomas at Weſtminſter 30 th October 8 E. IV. 1468 - - - -	3	4
“ Item, I did write two Quires of paper of Wit- neſſes, every Quire containing 14 leaves after 2d. a leaf - - - -	4	8
“ Item, as to the * Great Book - - - -		
First, for writing of the Coronation; and other Treatiſes of Knighthood, in that quire which con- taineth a 13 leaves and more, 2d. a leaf - - -	2	2
“ Item, for the Treatiſe of War in four books, which containeth 60 leaves after 2d. a leaf - -	10	
“ Item, for 5 Othea, an Epiſtle, which containeth 43 leaves - - - -	7	2
“ Item, for the Challenges, and the Acts of Arms which is 28 leaves - - - -	4	8
“ Item, for De * Regimine Principum, which con- taineth 45 leaves, after 1 penny a leaf, which it is right well worth - - - -	3	9
“ Item, for 7 Rubriſhing of all the Book - -	3	4
	63	5

* This either means ornamenting the whole with red Capital Letters, or writing the heads of the ſeveral Treatiſes or Chapters in red Letters.

			L.	S.	D.
" S'm rest'	-	-	-	xxij	iiij
* S'm non solut'	-	-	-	xlj	j
S'm To ^l .	-	-	-	iiij	v

William Ebesham.

8 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N^o 1.

* "Und p'o m^o libro script' xxvij' cu' diu' chal." This in the Original follows "Sum' non fol. 41^s. 1^d."

The following Account of Payments for Writing, &c. is extracted from an Original Quarto, M. S. in the Editor's possession, containing

The various Expences of Sir John Howard, Knight, of Stoke by Neyland, in Suffolk, (afterwards Duke of Norfolk.) p. 136.

Item the vijth yere of Kynge Edward y^e iiijth and y^e xxvij day of July (1467.) My Maft' rekened w^t Thomas Lympho^r. of Bury and my Maft' peid hym

				S.	D.
For viij hole ¹ Vynets	-	-	-	p ['] fe y ^e vynett xij ^d	-
It ^m . for xxj dī vynets	-	-	-	p ['] fe y ^e dī vynett. iiij ^d	-
It' for Pſalmes Lettres ² xv ^c and dī	-	-	-	y ^e p ['] fe of C iiij ^d	-
It' for p ['] ms Letters ³ lxiiij ^c	-	-	-	p ['] fe of a C j ^d	-
					vij
					vij
					v
					ij
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It'

LETTER XXX.

To my Worchyppfull brother Sr. John Paston be thys byll delu'ed in hast.

RYGT H Worchipfull brother I recomaund me onto you lettyng you to wytte that my Lorde ¹ Stafford was made Erle of Devenefchere apon Sonday and as for the Kyng as I understond

¹ Humphrey, Lord Stafford, was created Earl of Devonshire, in May, 1469, and beheaded at Bridgewater, the 17th of August following, by command of the King, for abandoning

	l.	s.	d.
Sum received	-	-	22 4
* Sum unpaid	-	-	4 ¹ 1
Sum Total	-	-	3 3 5

WILLIAM EBESHAM.

It' for wrytynge of a quare and dī - - - p'fe y ^e quayr xx ^d	-	-	ij	vj
It' for wrytynge of a Calender	-	-	-	xij
It' for iij quayres of Velym p'fe y ^e quayr xx ^d	-	-	v	
It' for notynge of v quayres and ij leues p'fe of y ^e 4 quayr viij	-	-	iiij	vij
It' for Capital Drawynge iij ^c and dī y ^e p'fe	-	-	-	iiij
It' for floryshynge of Capytallis v ^c	-	-	-	v
It' for byndynge of y ^e 5 Boke	-	-	-	xij

The wyche p'cellis my Mastr paid h̄y y^e day and he is content.

l ij

This is an Account of a Limner or Illuminator of Manuscripts, who resided at Bury.

¹ Borders, Flowers, or Flourishes at the beginning of a Book, Chapter, &c.

² xv^c and dī = 1500 and an half.

³ lxiiij^c = 6300.

⁴ A Quire of Velum from this entry seems to consist of four leaves, and his receiving only 3d. for noting two leaves might be accounted for, by the last leaf not being full; the Drawing and Flourishing of the Capital Letters seems very cheap.

⁵ 12s. appears a great price for binding a Book, but it is so stated in the original account.

L E T T E R XXV.

To my worshipful Brother, Sir John Paston, be this bill delivered in haste.

RIGHT worshipful Brother, I recommend me unto you, letting you to weet, that my Lord¹ Stafford was made Earl of Devonshire upon Sunday; and as for the King, as I abandoning the Earl of Pembroke, before the Battle of Banbury; by which means the Rebels were victorious.

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D

under-

ftond he departyt to ² Walsynggame apon fryday com vij nygth and the Quene also yf God fend hyr good hele.

And as for the Kyng was apoyntyd to goo to Calys and now hyt ys pute of. And also as for the goyng to the See my Lord of Warwyke Schyppys gothe to the see as I understond non' other tydynggys I can non' wryte unto you but Jh'u have you in hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Wyndyfore on monday aft' Whytsonday in haft, &c.

By yor. ³ brother,

James Hawte.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$.

² This must be on a Pilgrimage to our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk; for so great was the Fame of the Image of our Lady of Walsingham, in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin there, that Foreigners of all Nations came on a Pilgrimage to her, insomuch that her worshippers seemed to equal those of the Lady of Loretto in Italy.

She

L E T T E R N U J.

To the right reu'ent Sr. Henry ¹ Spelman Recorder of the Cite of Norwich be this Letter deliu'ed.

RIGHT reu'ent Sr I recomaunde me to you plese it you to knowe this fame day com to me the ² Shirreve of Norff' hymself and tolde me that the ³ Quene shall be at Norwich

This Letter shews the attention, which the City of Norwich wished to pay to the Queen on her reception, and during her residence there.

¹ Henry Spelman married Ela, Daughter and Coheir of William de Narburgh, and was the first of that family that settled at Narborough, in Norfolk.

up

understand, he departyt [*departs*] to ² Walsingham upon Friday come sevensight, and the Queen also, if God send her hele [*health*]. And as for the King, (*he*) was appointed for to go to Calais, and now it is put off.

And also as for the going to the Sea, my Lord of Warwick's Ships go to the Sea, as I understand. None other tidings I can none write unto you, but Jesu have you in his keeping.

Written at Windsor on Monday after Whitsunday in haste, &c.

By your ³ Brother,

JAMES HAWTE.

Whitsun Monday,
22d of May, 1469,
9 Ed. IV.

She flourished till the Reformation, and then underwent the fate of other objects of superstition, being, in the year 1538, taken down, brought to Chelsea, and there burnt.

³ I do not know why he calls Sir John Paston his Brother; for Sir John certainly never married Anne Hawte, who possibly might be the Sister of James. Pl. v. N^o 21.

LETTER XXVI.

To the right reverend Sir Henry ¹ Spelman, Recorder of the City of Norwich, be this Letter delivered.

RIGHT reverend Sir, I recommend me to you. Please it you to know this same day came to me the ² Sheriff of Norfolk himself, and told me that the ³ Queen shall be at

² Roger Ree, Esq. was Sheriff of Norfolk, in 1469.

³ Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.

up on 4 Tuisday cometh sevenyght fuyrly And I desired to have knowe of hym by cause this shuld be hir first comyng hedir how we shuld be rulyd as well in hir resseyvyng as in hir abidyng here And he seide he wold nat ocupie hym ther wyth but he councelid us to wryte to you to London to knowe of hem that ben of Coñsell of that Cite or wyth other wurshepfull men of the same Cite that ben knowyng in that behalf And we to be ruled ther aftir as were acordyng for us for he lete me to wete that she woll desire to ben resseyved and attendid as wurshepfully as evir was Quene a forn hir Wherefore Sr. I be the assent of my Bretheren Aldermen, &c. prey you hertily to have this labor for this Cite And that it plese you if it may be that at that day ye be here in p'pre p'sone and I trust in God that outhir in rewards or ellys in thankynges both of the Kyngs comyng and in this ye shall ben plesid as worthy is Wrete in hast at Norwich the vj day of Juyll A° ix° R E q^{ti}.

By yo^r. Weelwyller,

5 John Aubrey, &c.

10 by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

* 18th of July, 1469.

L C C.

Norwich upon ⁴ Tuesday come sev'night surely. And I desired to have know of him, because this should be her first coming hither, how we should be ruled, as well in her receiving, as in her abiding here. And he said, he would not occupy him therewith, but he counselled us to write to you to London, to know of them that been of Counfel of that City, or with other worshipful men of the same City, that been knowing in that behalf; and we to been ruled thereafter, as were according for us; for he let me to weet, that she would desire to be received and attended, as worshipfully as ever was Queen afore her. Wherefore I, by the assent of my Brethren Aldermen, &c. pray you heartily to have this labour for this City, and that it please you, if it may be, that at that day ye be here in proper person. And I trust in God, that either in rewards, or else in thankings both of the King's coming, and in this, ye shall be pleased as worthy is. Written in haste at Norwich, the 6th day of July Anno 9^o Regis Edw^{di} quarti.

By your Well Willer,

⁵ JOHN AUBRY, &c.

Norwich,
Thursday, 6th of July,
1469, 9 E. IV.

⁵ John Aubry, was Mayor of Norwich, in 1469. Pl. v. N^o 22.

LET-

LETTER IIII.

To my Moder and to my Brother John Paston.

BROTHER it is so y^t the Kyng schall come in to Norff^r in haft and I wot nat whethyr y^t I may com' w^t hym or nowt if I come I most do make a liu'e of xx^{ti} gownes whyche I most pyke owt by your advyse and asfor Clothe for suche p'fones as be in y^t contre if it myght be had ther at Norwyche or not I wot not and what p'fones I am not remembryd.

If my Modre be at ¹ Cast' as ther schall be no dowt for the kepyng of y^e place whyl the Kynge is in that contre that I may have the most p'te at Cast' and whether ye woll offre your selfe to wayte uppon the Lorde of Norfolk or not I wolde ye dyde y^t best wer to do I wolde do my Lorde plesur and f'vyse and so I wolde ye dyde if I wyft to be sur of hys gode Lorde-schyp in tyme to kome he schall have CC in a lyu'ye blewe and ²tawny and blew on the leffte fyde and bothe darke Colors.

I pray yow fende me worde and your advyse by Judd of
what

There is no date to this Letter; whether it refers therefore to the coming of the King into Norfolk, in 1469 or in 1474, is uncertain, and of little consequence; the chief reason for inserting it was to shew the preparations expected to be made for the attending upon and receiving him. Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

The peculiarity of the Duke of Norfolk's Liveries is worthy notice, being to be made party-coloured of blue and tawny, having the left side of the former, and the right of the latter colour.

L E T T E R XXVII.

To my Mother, and to my Brother John Paston.

BROTHER, it is so that the King shall come into Norfolk in haste, and I wot [*know*] not whether that I may come with him or not; if I come, I must do make a Livery of 20 Gowns, which I must pick out by your advice; and as for the Cloth for such persons as be in that Country, if it might be had there at Norwich, or not, I wot not; and what Persons I am not remembered.

If my Mother be at ¹Caister, as there shall be no doubt for the keeping of the place while the King is in that Country, that I may have the most part at Caister.

And whether ye will offer yourself to wait upon my Lord of Norfolk or not, I would ye did that best were to do; I would do my Lord pleasure and service, and so I would ye did, if I wist [*thought*] to be sure of his good Lordship in time to come. He shall have 200 in a Livery blue and ²tawny, and blue on the left side, and both dark colours.

I pray you send me word, and your advice by Judd of what

N. B. Dresses of this kind may be seen in various illuminated Manuscripts of this age.

¹ Caister, near Yarmouth, in Norfolk, formerly the Residence of Sir John Fastolf, Knight.

² Tawny Colour appears to have been a yellowish dusky brown orange colour, and much worn at this time.

what men and what horse I cowde be p'veyd off if so be y^t
I most nedys kome and of your advyse in all thyngs be wrygh-
tyng and I schall send yow hastely other tydyngs late ³ Sorell
be well kept.

John Paston, kt.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

³ A Horse so called.

LETTER IIII.

The Duc of Norff.

WHERE John Paston esquier and other diu's p'sones
have ageyn the peas kepte the Manoir of Caster with
force ageyne the wille and entent of us the Duc of Norff,
to oure grete displeaser whiche notw^tstanding at the comtē-
placion of the writing of the moost worshipfull and reu'ent
fader in God the Cardenall of England and our moost trusty
and entierly beloved Unkel the Archbisshop of Canterbury the
right noble Prince my Lord of Clarence and other Lords of
oure blood And also at the grete labour and enstaunce of our
moost dere and singler beloved Wiffe We be agreed that the seid

John

Endorsed in an ancient hand.

"The Duke of Norff' Lr'e upon his entrie into Caister A^o E. 4. 1x^o."

This is given to shew the regal style used by the Nobility of these times.

In Blomefield's History of Norfolk, vol. v. p. 1552. A particular Account of the
Siege

men, and what horſe I could be purveyed of, if ſo be that I muſt needs come, and of your advice in all things by writing, and I ſhall ſend you haſtily other tidings. Let^s Sorrell be well kept.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

The Duke of Norfolk.

WHERE (*AS*) John Paſton, Eſquire, and other diſverſe perſons have, againſt the Peace, kept the Manor of Caiſter with force, againſt the Will and Intent of Us the Duke of Norfolk, to our great Diſpleaſure; which notwithstanding, at the contemplation of the Writing of the moſt worſhipful and reverend Father in God the Cardinal of England, and our moſt truſty and entirely beloved Uncle the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the right noble Prince my Lord of Clarence, and other Lords of our blood, and alſo at the great labour and inſtance of our moſt dear and ſingular beloved Wife, We be agreed that the ſaid John Paſton and his ſaid Fellowship,

Siege of Caiſter Caſtle is given, with the names of the principal Perſons engaged on both ſides.

The Mark of the Signet remains, but the Impreſſion is defaced.—It is likewiſe ſigned with the Duke's own hand. Pl. iv. N^o 3.

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being

John Paston and his seid ffellowship beyng in the seid Maneur shall depart and goo out of the seid Maneur without delay and make therof deliu'aunce to suche p'sones as we will assigne the seid ffellowship havynge their lyves and Goods horffe and harneys and other goods beyng in the kepyng of the seid John Paston except Gannes Crossebows and Quarells and alle other hostelments to the seid Maneur annexed and belonginge And to have xv Dayes respyte aftir their seid departing out to goo in to what place shall like them without any accions or quarell to be taken or made by us in our name to theim or any of them within our ffranchise or without duryng the seid tyme.

Yoven under our signet at Yermouth the xxvj Day of Sep-tembr the ix^{te} yere of King Edward the iiijth.

Norff. ☉

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER XXX.

To S^r. John Paston Knyght.

RIGHT worshipfull and my especiall true h'rtid ffrende
I comāunde me un to you, P'ying you to ordeyne me
iiij horffe harneys as godely as ye and Genyn' kan devyse as it
were for yourselfe and yat I may have thyme in all hast orde'
Also Skern' faith ye wolde ordeyne ij standarde stavys. this I
pray

being in the said Manor, shall depart and go out of the said Manor without delay, and make thereof deliverance to such Persons as we will assign, the said Fellowship having their Lives and Goods, Horse and Harness, and other Goods being in the keeping of the said John Paston; except Guns, Cross bows, and Quarrels and all other Hostelments [*warlike Implements*] to the said Manor annexed and belonging; and to have 15 Days respite after their said departing out, to go into what place shall like them, without any Actions or Quarrel to be taken or made by us, or in our name to them, or any of them, within our Franchise or without, during the said time.

Given under our Signet at Yarmouth the 26th day of September, the 9th year of King Edward the IVth.

NORFOLK.

Yarmouth,
Tuesday, 26th of September,
1469, 9 E. IV.

L E T T E R XXIX.

To Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful, and my especial true hearted Friend,
I commend me unto you, praying you to ordain [*order for*] me three horses harness as goodly as ye and Genyns can devise, as it were for yourself; and, that I may have them in all haste, order; also Skern faith, ye would ordain two

E 2

standard

pray you to remembre and my wife shalle deliv' you filu', and yit she most borrowed it, vj or vij^{li} I wold be stowe on a horffe harneys, And so Skern' tolde me I might have, the Lord Haft^g had for y^e same price but I wolde not myn' were lik his, and I trust to God we shalle do right welle, who p'serve you. Wreten at Cant'bury in haft the xvij day of Juyll.

Drynford.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, (Pl. iv. N^o 5.) retaining his loyalty to the House of Lancaster, in whose cause his Father and elder Brother had lost their heads upon the Scaffold in 1461-2, and for whose sake he himself had suffered a long imprisonment, seems now privately to be preparing to join the Earl of Warwick, in favour of the deposed King Henry.

I should suppose this Letter to have been written either in July 1469, at the time that the Earl of Warwick and his Adherents were meditating the plan for dethroning Edward, or in 1470, when they had come to a resolution of reinstating Henry on the Throne. Pl. xiv. N^o 24.

The

LETTER XXX.

To John Paston Esq̄r beyng at Norwyche be thys Lett' delyu'yd.

I Comande me to yow letyng yow wete, &c. (*Here follows an account of bills and receipts, &c.*)

Itm As ffor Mestresse Katern Dudle I have many tymes recomandyd yow to hyr and she is noo thyng displeasyd w^t itt

standard staves; this I pray you to remember, and my wife shall deliver you silver, and yet she must borrow it. Six or seven pounds I would bestow on a Horse-harnes; and so Skern told me I might have. The Lord Hastyngs had for the same price, but I would not mine were like his; and I trust to God we shall do right well, who preserve you. Written at Canterbury in haste, the 18th day of July.

O X Y N F O R D.

Canterbury, 18th of July,
1469 or 1470,
9 or 10 E. IV.

The Order to Sir John Paston, for providing the horse-harnes was to be executed, "*as it were for himself*," and the referring him to the Countess for Money, shews it to be at a time when his finances were very low. The expression "*Yet she must borrow it*," implies too that his Lady had not already the Money, but that she had it *still* to procure.

Though the Earl desired that his horse-harnes might be of the same price with one which Lord Hastyngs had purchased, yet he wished it not to be like his; the reason seems to be, he did not choose to appear with Caparisons similar to those of a Yorkist.

The words "I trust to God we shall do right well" refer to some scheme then in agitation; and on the success of which he had placed great confidence.

L E T T E R XXX.

To John Paston, Esquire, being at Norwich, be this Letter delivered.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet, &c. (*Here follows an account of bills, and receipts, &c. of no consequence.*)

Item, as for Mistress Katherine Dudley, I have many times recommended you to her, and she is nothing displeased with it; she

itt she rekkythe not howe many Gentylnen love hyr she is ffull of love, I have betyn the mat' ffor yow, your onknowleche as I tolde hyr She anfwerythe me y^t fche woll noon thys ij yer and I beleve hyr ffor I thynke fche hathe the lyffe y^t fche can holde hyr content w^t I trowe she woll be a fore laboryng woman y^{is} ij yer ffor mede off hyr fowle.

And Mestresse Gryseacreffe is fur' to Selenger w^t my Lady of Exe^{tr}' a fflowle loffe.

Itm I praye yow speke w^t ² Harcort off the Abbeye ffor a lytell Cllokke whyche I sent hym by James Grefsh'm to amend and y^t ye woll get it off hym and it be redy and fende it me and asfor mony ffor hys labor he hathe another cloke off myn' whyche St. Thom's Lyndes God have hys fowle gave me he maye kepe that tyll I paye hym, thys Klok is my Lordys Archebyfshopis but late not hym wete off it and y^t itt easely caryed hyddr by yowr advyse. Also as ffor Orenge I schall fende yow a Serteyn by the next Caryer. And as for tydyng the berer hereoff schall infforme yow ye most geve credence to hym.

As for my goode spede I hope well I am offryd yit to have Mestresse Anne Hault' and I schall have helpe i nowe as some feye.

(Here

¹ Anne, Daughter of Richard, Duke of York, and Sister of King Edward IV. married Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, and in 1462 had possession of his forfeited Estates, and remained with her brother, Edward IV. She afterwards married Sir Thomas St. Leger, and died in 1475.

² This shews that our curious mechanical Arts were practised in the religious Houses, and performed there by the Monks, &c. for money.

This Letter was written in February or March 1469, 1470, or 1471, for in these years

she rekkythe [*careth*] not how many Gentlemen love her, she is full of love; I have betyn [*enforced*] the matter for you, your unknowledge [*without your knowledge*] as I told her; she answered me, that she would (*have*) no one this two years, and I believe her; for I think, she hath the life that she can hold her content with, I trow she will be a fore labouring woman this two years for the meed of her Soul.

And Mistrefs Gryseacres is sure to Selenger [*St. Leger*], with my Lady of ¹ Exeter, a foul los.

Item, I pray you speak with ² Harcourt of the Abbey, for a little clock, which I sent him by James Gresham to mend, and that ye would get it of him, and [*if*] it be ready, and send it me; and as for money for his labour, he hath another Clock of mine, which Sir Thomas Lyndes, God have his Soul! gave me; he may keep that till I pay him; this Clock is my Lord Archbishop's, but let not him weet of it, and that it (*be*) easily carried hither by your advice.

Also as for Oranges I shall send you a Serteyn by the next Carrier, and as for Tidings the Bearer hereof shall inform you, ye must give credence to him.

As for my good speed, I hope well, I am offered yet to have Mistrefs Anne Hault', and I shall have help enough as some say.

years civil dissensions were on foot. The caution, respecting tidings, and the uncertainty of what may befall, shews that this Letter was written during some convulsion of the State. Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 10.

By the Earl of Warwick's being supposed to go with the King into Lincolnshire, it appears as if this Letter was written during the Restoration of Henry VI. and that their going there was to oppose Edward's return.

(Here

(Here follows an account of some disputes between Sir William Yelverton and Sir J. Paston, his Uncle William, &c. of no consequence.)

It'm it is soo y^t I am halffe in p'pose to com hom' w^t in a monythe her afftr or abowt med Lēnte or beffor Esterne ondyr yowr corecon iff so be that ye deme y^t moodr wolde helpe me to my Costys x mrk or ther abowt I praye ffeelee hyr dysposicon and sende me worde.

It'm I cannot telle yow what woll ffalle off the Worlde ffor the Kyng verrelly is dysposyd to goo in to Lyncoln schyr and men wot not what wyll ffalle ther off ner ther afftr' they wene my Lorde off Norffolke brynge x^m men.

It'm ther is comen a newe litell Torke whyche is a wele vyfagyd Felawe off the age off xl yer' and he is lower than Manuell by an hanffull and lower then my lytell Tom by the schorderys and mor lytell above hys pappe and he hathe as he feyde to y^e Kynge hymselffe iij or iiij Sonys chyldr' iche on' off hem as hyghe and affe lykly as the Kynge hymselffe and he is leggyd ryght i now and it is reportyd that hys pyntell is affe longe as hys legge.

It'm I praye yow schewe or rede to my moodre fuche thynges as ye thynke is ffor her to know afftr yowr dyscreffion and to late hyr undrestond off the Article off the trete betwen Syr Wyll'm Yelu'ton and me.

It'm my Lorde of Warwyk as it is supposyd schall goo w^t y^e Kynge in to Lyncolne schyre som' men feye y^t hys goyng shall doo good and som feye that it dothe harme.

I praye

(Here follows an account of some disputes between Sir William Yelverton, and Sir John Paston, his Uncle William, &c. of no consequence.)

Item, it is so that I am in purpose to come home within a month hereafter, or about Midlent, or before Easter, under your correction, if so be, that ye deem that my Mother would help me to my Costs, 10 marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) or thereabouts; I pray you feel her disposition and send me word.

Item, I cannot tell you what will fall of the World, for the King verily is disposed to go into Lincolnshire, and men wot not what will fall thereof, nor thereafter, they ween my Lord of Norfolk shall bring 10,000 men.

Item, there is come a new little Turk, which is a well visaged Fellow, of the age of forty years; and he is lower than Manuel by an handful, and lower than my little Tom by the shoulders, and more little above his Pap; and he hath, as he said to the King himself, three or four Children, (*Sons*) each one of them as high and as likely as the King himself; and he is legged right enough.

Item, I pray you shew, or read to my Mother, such things, as ye think are for her to know, after your discretion; and to let her understand of the Article of the treaty between Sir William Yelverton and me.

Item, my Lord of Warwick, as it is supposed, shall go with the King into Lincolnshire; some men say that his going shall do good, and some say, that it doth harm.

I praye yow evyr have an eyghe to Cast^r to knowe the rewle ther and fende me worde and whyther my wyfe Lorde and my Lady be yit as fottyt uppon it as they wer' and whether my feyd Lorde refortythe thyddr as offte as he dyd or nott and off the dysposycōn off the Contre.

A. P. B.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17 $\frac{1}{2}$.
A whole Sheet.

Paper Mark,
A Goat's Head.
Pl. x. N^o 8.

LETTER IIII.

To my right trusty and Welbeloved Sir John Paston.

i b s.

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved I grete you hertely well. And fende you by Thom's yo^r childe xx^{li} prayng you to spare me as for eny more atthis tyme and to hold you content with theffame, as my singlr truste is in you, And I shalle within bref tyme ordeigne and p'veye for you such as shalbe unto

This Letter from George Neville, Archbishop of York, and brother to Richard, Earl of Warwick, must have been written either when he was in opposition to Edward, in conjunction with his brother the Earl of Warwick, or after his return from his imprisonment abroad, not long before his death, when it is probable he found it difficult to raise even a small sum of Money. Pl. IV, N^o 4.

George

I pray you ever have an eye to Caister, to know the rule there, and fend me word, and whether my wife Lord and my Lady be yet as fotted upon it [*as fond of it*] as they were; and whether my said Lord resorteth thither as often as he did or not; and of the disposition of the Country.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

L E T T E R XXXI.

To my right trusty and well beloved Sir John Paston.

IHS.

RIGHT trusty and well beloved, I greet you heartily well, and fend you by Thomas your Child zol. praying you to spare me as for any more at this time, and to hold you content with the same, as my singular trust is in you; and I shall within brief time ordain and purvey for you such as shall be

George Neville, was consecrated Bishop of Exeter, in 1455, when he was not completely twenty years of age. In 1460, he was appointed Lord Chancellor, and in 1466 advanced to the Archbishoprick of York. In 1470, he had the Custody of Edward IV. when taken Prisoner by the Earl of Warwick, and died in 1476, *Æt.* 41.

On the top of the Letter is the sacred Character of IHS.

F 2

unto

unto yo^r pleasir with the g[']ce of Almighty God, who have you
in his proteccōn and keping.

Writen in the manor of the ¹ Mor the vijth daye of Maye.

G. Chorac,

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

A small Part of the Paper
Mark, only remains.

¹ The Moor, a Manor in Hertfordshire, and a Seat of the Archbishop of York.

LETTER XXXII.

To my Cosyn J. Paston.

THE King camme to Granth'm and ther taried ¹ thoresday
all day and ther was headed Sr. Thom's Dalalaunde and on
John Neille a greate Capteyn and upon y^e ² monday next aft'
y^{at} at Dancastr and y^{er} was headed Sr. Robert Wellys and a
nothr greate Capteyn and y^{an} y^e King hadde Warde y^{at} the
Duk of Clarence and y^e Erle of Warwick was att Esterfeld xx
mile from Dancastre And uppon y^e ³ Tewesday att ix of y^e
bell y^e King toke y^e feld and mustered his people and itt was
feid y^{at} wer neu' feyn in Ingland so many goodly men and so
well

This Letter was written a short time after the battle of Stamford, wherein Edward
was victorious, having slain and disperfed the Forces commanded by Sir Robert Welles,
who in this engagement had fought most furiously ; being exasperated at the recent death
of his father the Lord Welles. We are here acquainted with the movements of the
King

unto your pleasure with the Grace of Almighty God, who have you in his protection and keeping.

Written in the Manor of the ¹ Moor the 7th day of May.

G. EBORAC.

The Moor,
in Hertfordshire,
7th of May.
Between 1466 and 1476,
6 and 16 E. IV.

L E T T E R XXXII.

To my Cousin, John Paston.

THE King came to Grantham, and there tarried ¹ Thursday all day, and there was headed Sir Thomas Dalalaunde and one John Neille a great Captain ; and upon the ² Monday next after that at Doncaster, and there was headed Sir Robert Welles, and another great Captain ; and then the King had word, that the Duke of Clarence, and the Earl of Warwick, was at Esterfield, 20 miles from Doncaster ; and upon the ³ Tuesday at nine of the bell, the King took the field, and mustered his people ; and it was said, that [*there*] were never seen in England so

King after his victory, and with some of the Executions which took place by his order on those who had opposed him.

¹ 15 March, 1469.

² 19 March, 1469.

³ 20 March, 1469.

many

well arrayed in a feld and my ⁴ Lord was whorshupfully accompanied no Lord y^{er} so well wherfor y^e King gaffe my Lord a greate thanke and y^{an} the Duk of Clarence and y^e Erle of Warwik harde y^{at} y^e King was comyng to y^{em} warde in contynent y^{er} dep'ted and wente to Manchestr' in Lancashire hoppyng to have hadde helpe and focour of y^e Lord s Stanley butt in conclucōn y^{er} y^{er} hadde litill favor as itt was enformed y^e King and so men fayn y^{er} wente westward and sommen demen to London And whan y^e King harde y^{er} wer dep'ted and gon he went to York and came yeder y^e ⁶ thoresday next afr and y^{er} camme into hym all y^e Gentilmen of y^e Shire and uppon our ⁷ Lady day made Percy Erle of Northumb'land and he y^{at} was ⁸ Erle affore Markeys Muntakew and y^e King is p'posed to come Southwarde God send hym god spede.

Writen y^e xxvij day of March.

⁹ for troth.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

L C C.

⁴ I believe it means John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

⁵ Thomas, Lord Stanley, afterwards Earl of Derby.

⁶ 22 March, 1469.

⁷ 25 March, 1470. N. B. The Date changed on the 25th of March, yearly.

⁸ John Neville, brother to the Earl of Warwick; by this advancement in honour

many goodly men, and so well arrayed in a field; and my
 4 Lord was worshipfully accompanied, no Lord there so well;
 wherefore the King gave my Lord a great thank.

And than [*when*] the Duke of Clarence, and the Earl of Warwick heard that the King was coming to themward, in continent [*immediately*] they departed, and went to Manchester in Lancashire, hoping to have had help and succour of the Lord
 5 Stanley; but in conclusion, there they had little favour, as it was informed the King; and, so men say, they went westward, and, some men deem, to London.

And when the King heard they were departed and gone, he went to York, and came thither the 6 Thursday next after, and there came in to him all the Gentlemen of the Shire; and upon 7 Our Lady day, (*he*) made Percy Earl of Northumberland, and he that was 8 Earl afore, Marquis Montagu; and so the King is purposed to come Southward, God send him good speed.

Written the 27th day of March.

9 FOR TRUTH.

Tuesday,
 27th of March,
 1470, 10 E. IV.

we must suppose that even at this time the King had no suspicion of the loyalty of the Marquis. I have been more particular in ascertaining the Dates of the occurrences in this Letter, as they differ from some of those in our Historians.

9 The name of the Writer is not put to this Letter, but at the end, in a hand of the time, though in a different one from that used in the Letter, is written "for trowyth." Pl. v. N° 23.

LET-

LETTER IIIII.

These iij Letteres undirwreten the Kyng of his own hand wrote unto my Lords Clarence Warr, and Arch' of York. The Credence wherof in Substaunce was y^{at} eu'y of them shulde in suech pesibil wise as thei have be accustomed to ryde, come unto his Highness.

R. E.

To our Brother of Clarence.

BRODIR, We pray you to yeve feight and credence to our welbeloved Sr. Thom's¹ Montgomery and Morice² Berkley in that on our behalf thei shal declare to you And we truste ye wole dispose you accordyng to our pleser and comāunde And ye shal be to us right welcome. At Notyngham the ix day of Jull.

To our Cosyn Therl of Warr.

COSYN we grete you well And pray you to yeve feight and credence to Sr. Thom's Montgomery and Morice Berkley, &c. And we ne trust y^{at} ye shulde be of any suech disposicōn towards

These Letters of King Edward were copied, and the Copies appear to have been sent enclosed immediately to the person to whom the Letter containing them was directed. Pl. iv. N^o 1. was copied from an original Autograph of this King.

The Letters were written by the King in 1470, either immediately before he was taken Prisoner by the Earl of Warwick, or soon after his escape, and re-assuming the government, when a Conference was held at Westminster under a Safe-conduct; or (which is most probable) they were written at the time that the King had ordered his forces to rendezvous at Nottingham, in order to oppose Warwick; when on the Earl's approach
he

L E T T E R XXXIII.

These three Letters underwritten, the King of his own hand wrote unto my Lords of Clarence, Warwick, and Archbishop of York. The Credence whereof in substance was, that every of them should in such peaceable wise, as they have be [been] accustomed to ride, come unto his Highness.

REX EDVARDUS. *To our Brother of Clarence.*

BROTHER, we pray you to give faith and credence to our well beloved Sir Thomas ¹ Montgomery and Morice ² Berkley, in that on our behalf they shall declare to you; and we trust ye will dispose you according to our pleasure and commandment; and ye shall be to us right welcome. At Nottingham the 9th day of July.

To our Cousin, the Earl of Warwick.

COUSIN, we greet you well, and pray you to give faith and credence to Sir Thomas Montgomery and Morice Berkley, (in that on our behalf they shall declare to you); and we ne trust [*do not believe*] that ye should be of any such disposition towards

he retreated, and marched for Lynn, in Norfolk, from whence he embarked for Holland. The Date will not coincide with the time as fixed by our Historians.

The Letters are short and concise, but contain every thing the Writer intended, and as royal Letters are certainly curious. The Signature at the top is copied from an Autograph of King Edward.

¹ Sir Thomas Montgomery had a command at the battle of Barnet, and was a Knight of the Garter.

² Maurice Berkeley was second son of James, Lord Berkeley, and in great favour with King Edward. He succeeded his Brother William as Lord Berkeley, in 1491, and died in 1506.

towards us as y^e Rumor here renneth confederyng the trust and affeccōn we bere in yow. At Notyngham the ix day of Jull. And Cosyn ne thynk but ye shalbe to us welcome.

To our Cosyn Tharchbysshop of Yorke.

COSYN we p'y you y^{at} ye wul accordyng to the p'myse ye made us to come to us as sone as ye goodely may And y^{at} yeve credence to Sr. Thom's Montgomery and Morice Berkley in y^{at} un our behalve yei shal sey to you And ye shalbe to us welcome, at Notyngham the ix day of Jul.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my Mastyr Sr. John Paston knyght be thys delyu'yd.

RYGH T worchepfull Sr. I recomand me to yow thankyng yow most hertly of yo^r gret cost whyche ye dyd on me at my last beīg w^t yow at London whyche to my power I wyll recompence yow w^t the best feryse that lythe in me to do for your plesure whyll my wytts be my owne.

Syr as for the mater of 'Cast' it hathe be meuyd to my

Under the Direction of this Letter is written in a hand of the time "A^o x^o," which I suppose means the 10 E. IV. and accordingly I have so dated this Letter, though had it not been for this memorandum I should have placed it after that of Sir John Paston to John Paston, Esq. dated 3d of February, 1472, 12 E. IV. and to which I refer the Reader, as likewise to the Letter dated between 8 and 9, November 1472, 12 E. IV. N^o LI. and L.

Ladys

us, as the Rumour here runneth, considering the trust and affection we bear in you. At Nottingham the 9th day of July. And Cousin ne [*do not*] think but ye shall be to us welcome.

To our Cousin the Archbishop of York.

C OUSIN, we pray you that ye will, according to the promise ye made us, come to us as soon as ye goodly may; And that (*ye*) give credence to Sir Thomas Montgomery and Morice Berkley in that on our behalf they shall say to you; and ye shall be to us welcome. At Nottingham the 9th day of July.

Nottingham,

9th of July, 1470, 10 E. IV.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

To my Master, Sir John Paston, knight, be this delivered.

R IGH T worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, thanking you most heartily of your great cost, which ye did on me at my last being with you at London; which to my power, I will recompence you with the best service that lyeth in me to do for your pleasure, while my wits be my own.

Sir, as for the matter of ¹ Caister, it hath been moved to my

¹ The Estate and the Hall at Caister, were part of the possessions of Sir John Fastolf, knight. John Paston, Father of Sir John, was one of his executors; by which means the Pastons got into possession of this Seat, &c. The right of possessing it was disputed both by the Duke of Norfolk, and by King Edward IV. the former in 1469, laying a regular Siege to it; the Pastons had at last quiet possession.

Ladys good Grace by the Byshope of ² Wynchest' as well as he kowd imagyn to sey it confederȳg the lytyll leyser that he had w^t hyr and he told me that he had ryght an agreabyll answer of hyr but what hys answer was he wold not tell me then I axyd hym what answer I shold send yow in as myche as ye mad me a solyfyter to hys Lordship for that mater then he bad me that undyr confayll I shold send you woord that hyr answer was more to your plesure than to the contrary whych ye shall have more pleyne knowlage of thys next terme att whyche tyme bothe my Lord and she shall be at London.

The Byshop cam to ³ Framlyngham on wednysday at nyght and on thursday by x of the klok befor noon my yong Lady was kryftend and namyd ⁴ Anne the Byshop cryftend it and was Godfader bothe And w^t in ij owyrs and lesse aftyr the cryftenȳg was do, my Lord of Wynchest' departyd towards Walth'm. *(Then follows the substance of a conversation between the Lady of Norfolk and Thomas Davers, wherein she promises to be a Friend to Sir John Paston concerning Caister; but J. Davers swore J. Paston not to mention her good will to any person, except to Sir John.)* And I let you pleyne weete I am not the man I was, ffor I was never so roughe in my Mastys confeyt as I am now and y^t he told me hymselff before Rychard Sothewell

² William de Wainfleet, or Patten, was a firm Adherent to the House of Lancaster; and notwithstanding that continued Bishop of Winchester from 1447 to 1486.

³ Framlingham Castle, in Suffolk, the then magnificent Seat of the Duke of Norfolk.

⁴ Anne, Daughter and Heir of John Mowbray, the last Duke of Norfolk, of that name. She was married in 1477 (being quite a Child) to Richard Duke of York, second Son of Edward IV. who on this marriage was created Duke of Norfolk, &c.

Lady's good Grace by the Bishop of ² Winchester, as well as he could imagine to say it, considering the little leifure that he had with her ; and he told me, that he had right an agreeable answer of her ; but what his answer was, he would not tell me ; then I asked him what answer I should send you, in as much as ye made me a Solicitor to his Lordship for that matter ; then he bad me, that, under counfel, I should send you word, that her answer was more to your pleasure than to the contrary ; which ye shall have more plain knowledge of this next term, at which time both my Lord and she shall be at London.

The Bishop came to ³ Framlingham on Wednesday at night, and on Thursday by ten of the clock before noon, my young Lady was christened, and named ⁴ Anne ; the Bishop christened it, and was Godfather both ; and within two hours and less after the Christening was do, my Lord of Winchester departed towards Waltham. (*Then follows the substance of a conversation between the Lady of Norfolk and Thomas Davers, wherein she promises to be a Friend to Sir John Paston concerning Caister, but T. Davers swore J. Paston not to mention her good will to any person, except to Sir John.*) And I let you plainly weet, I am not the man I was ; for I was never so rough in my Master's conceit as I am now, and that he told me himself before

This innocent Prince was supposed to be murdered in the Tower, with his Brother King Edward V. in 1483, aged about 9 years. The Lady Anne, his Duchesse, died I believe before him. The Dukedom of Norfolk was in 1483 conferred on the Family of Howard.

Richard

Sothewell Tymp'ley Sr. W. Brandon and twenty more, so that they y^e lowryd nowgh laughe upon me, no moor but god look. Wretyn at Framlȳgh'm the fryday next aftyr y^e I depertyd fro yow, thys day my Lord is towardys ^s Walsyngh'm and comandyd me to ou'take hym to morow at y^e ferthest.

‘ J. D.

13 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Part of the Paper Mark,
the Letter G.

Pl. XII. N^o 18.

N. B. The upper Part is cut off.

^s To visit our Lady of Walsingham I suppose.

L E T T E R XXXII.

- - - - Paston, &c.

BROTHER I comand me to yow, &c. (*Here follows an order about searching for some Writings, &c.*) Also telle John Pampyng that the mayde at y^e Bulle at Cludeys at Westm' sent me on a tyme by hym to the moor a rynge of goolde to a tookne whyche I hadde not off hym wherffor I wolde he scholde sende it hyedre ffor sche most have itt ageyn or ellys v^s. ffor it was not hyrrys. Itm I praye yow be redye the mater qwykennythe bothe ffor yowe and yowres as well as ffor us and howrys.

As

Richard Southwell, Tymperley, Sir W. Brandon, and twenty more, so that they that loved not, laugh upon me ; no more but god look [*Query, Good Luck*].

Written at Framlingham the Friday next after that I departed from you. This day my Lord is toward ⁵ Walsingham, and commanded me to overtake him to-morrow at the farthest.

⁶ J. PASTON.

Framlingham,
Friday, 1470,
10 E. IV.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 12.

L E T T E R XXXV.

To J. Paston, &c.

BROTHER, I commend me to you, &c. (*Here follows an order about searching for some Writings, &c.*) Also tell John Pampyng that the Maid at the Bull at Cludeys at Westminster, sent me, on a time by him, to the Moor, a Ring of Gold to a token, which I had not of him ; wherefore I would that he should send it hither, for she must have it again, or else 5s. for it was not hers. I pray you be ready, the matter quickeneth both for you and yours, as well as for us and ours.

As ffor tydynges my Lorde ¹ Erchebyfshop is at the Moor but ther is beleffte w^t hym dyverfe off the Kynges f'vantes and as I underftond he hathe lyfence to tarry ther tyll he be fente ffor. Ther be many ffolkes uppe in the northe foo y^t ² Percy is not able to recyft them and foo the Kynge hathe fente ffor hys ffeodmen to koom to hym for he woll goo to putt them downe and foom feye y^t the Kynge fholde come ageyn to London and that in hafte and as it is fayde ³ Cortenayes be londyd in Devenfchyr and ther rewle. It'm that y^e Lordes ⁴ Clarence and Warwyk woll affaye to londe in Inglonde evyrye daye as ffolkes ffeer.

I praye yow late not John Mylfent be longe ffrom me w^t as moche as can be gaderyd and alfo that ye wryght to me off all thynges that I have wretyn to yow ffor fo that I may have anfwer off evy thyng.

Other thynges Bacheler Walter berer heroff fchall informe yow.

Wretyn at London the Sondaye nexte beffor Seynt ⁵ Lawrence daye.

Alfo my brother Edmonde is not yet remembryd he hathe not to lyff w^t thynk on hym, &c.

John Pafton, Lt.

¹² by ¹⁰.
Paper Mark,
The Letter R.
Pl. ix. N^o 16.

This Letter was written at a time when the nation was in a moft unfettled ftate, the late King's Adherents every day expecting the arrival of the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick, their new Friends. Some expreffions in this Letter feem to infinuate that Sir John Pafton (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) wifhed well to their caufe; and by his putting himfelf, as foon as the Revolution in the Government happened, under the Protection of the Earl of Oxford, fhows he did fo.

L E T-

As for tidings, my Lord ¹ Archbishop is at the Moor, but there is beleft with him diverfe of the King's fervants ; and as I underftand, he hath licence to tarry there till he be fent for. There be many Folks up in the North, fo that ² Percy is not able to refift them ; and fo the King hath fent for his Feodmen to come to him, for he will go to put them down ; and fome fay, that the King fhould come again to London, and that in hafte ; and as it is faid, ³ Courtneys be landed in Devonfhire, and there rule.

Item, that the Lords ⁴ Clarence and Warwick will affay to land in England every day, as Folks fear.

I pray you let not John Mylfent be long from me, with as much as can be gathered ; and alfo that ye write to me of all things that I have written to you for, fo that I may have anfwer of every thing.

Other things Batchelor Walter, bearer hereof fhall inform you. Written at London, the Sunday next before Saint ⁵ Lawrence's day.

Alfo my Brother Edmund is not yet remembered ; he hath not to live with, think on him, &c.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 5th of Auguft,
1470, 10 E. IV.

¹ This muft mean George Neville, Archbishop of York, and Brother to the Earl of Warwick, who feems to have been fufpected by the King, and left at the Moor as a kind of State Prifoner.

² Henry Percy, the lately created Earl of Northumberland.

³ The Courtneys were late Earls of Devonfhire.

⁴ Thefe Noblemen landed about the beginning of the month following.

⁵ St. Laurence's day is the 10th of Auguft.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To my ryght Worchippfull Modyr Margaret Paston be thys delyu'd.

AFTYR humbyll and most dew recomendacyon as lowly as I can I beseeche yow of yo^r blyssyng Plesyt yow to wet y^t blyssyd be god my brodyr and I be in good hele and I tryft that we shall do ryght well in all owyr maters haftyly ffor my Lady of ¹ Norff hathe promysyd to be rewlyd by my Lord of ² Oxynforthe in all fyche maters as belonge to my brodyr and to me and as for my Lord of Oxynforthe he is bettyr Lord to me by my trowthe than I can wyshe hym in many maters for he sente to my Lady of Norff by John Bernard only for my mater and for non othyr cause my onwetȳg or wythout eny preyer of me for when he sente to hyr I was at London and he at Colchestyr and y^t is a lyeklyod he remēbyrthe me the Dwk and the Dwchess swe to hym as humbylly as evyr I dyd to them in so myche that my Lord of Oxynforth shall have the rwyll of them and thers by ther owne desyirs and gret meanys. As for the Ofyces that ye wrot to my brodyr for and

This Letter was written after the flight of Edward, and very soon after the restoration of Henry VI. to the throne. Sir John Paston, and his Brother John Paston, (Pl. IV. N^o 12.) the Writer of this Letter, had been and still were of the Household of the Duke of Norfolk, but were now making their court to the Earl of Oxford; and hoped by his favour to have appointments under this new Government, which took place the beginning of October.

to

L E T T E R XXXVI.

To my right worshipful Mother, Margaret Paston, be this delivered.

AFTER humble and most due recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beseech you of your blessing. Please it you to weet, that, blessed be God, my Brother and I be in good hele [*health*]; and I trust that we shall do right well in all our matters hastily; for my Lady of ¹ Norfolk hath promised to be ruled by my Lord of ² Oxford in all such matters as belong to my brother and to me; and as for my Lord of Oxford, he is better Lord to me, by my truth, than I can wish him in many matters; for he sent to my Lady of Norfolk by John Bernard only for my matter, and for none other cause mine on weeting [*forgetting*], or without any prayer of me, for when he sent to her I was at London, and he at Colchester, and that is a likelihood he remembered me.

The Duke and the Duchefs sue to him as humbly as ever I did to them; infomuch that my Lord of Oxford shall have the rule of them and theirs, by their own desires and great means.

As for the Offices, that ye wrote to my brother for and to me,

¹ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; Elizabeth, Daughter of John Talbot, first Earl of Shrewsbury, Duchefs of Norfolk.

² John de Vere, a firm friend to the House of Lancaster, and who, during the short exaltation of Henry, was amongst the first Statesmen of that Party. He died 10th of March, 1412, 4 H. VIII.

to me they be for no poore men but I tryft we fhall fped of othyr ofyfeys metly for us. For my Maſtyr the Erle of Oxynforthe bydeth me axe and have. I trow my brodyr Sr. John fhall have the Conſtabyllſhep of Norwyche caſtyll w^t xx^{li} of ffee all the Lordys be agreyd to it. Tydyngs the Erle of ³ Wyrcetyr is lyek to dye yⁱs day or to morow at the fertheft John Pylkȳgton M. W. att Clyff and ffowler ar takyn and in the caſtyll of Pomfrett and ar lyek to dye haſtyly w^t owte y^er be dead. Sr. T. Mongomere and Joudone be takyn what fhall falle of hem I can not fey.

The ⁴ Qwen y^t was and the Dwcheſs of ⁵ Bedford be in Seyntuary at Weſtmeſtyr, the Byſheop ⁶ of Ely w^t othyr Byſheopys ar in ſeynt Martyns when I here more I fhall ſend yow more I prey God ſend yow all your deſyrs Wretyn at London on Seynt Edwards evyn.

Yor Sone and humbyll Servñt,

J. P.

Modyr I beſeche yow y^t Brome may be ſpokyn to to gadyr up my ſylluyr at Gwton in all haſt poſſybyll for I have no mony. Alſo y^t it lyek yow y^t John Mylfent may be ſpokyn to to kep well my Grey horſe and he be alyve and y^t he ſpare no met

³ John Tiptoft, Lord Treafurer and Lord Conſtable, abſconded on the departure of his Royal Maſter, but was taken in Weybridge Foreſt, in Huntingdonſhire, concealed in a Tree; and being brought to the Tower, was there beheaded upon a charge of cruelty, on the 18th of October, 1470.

⁴ Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. 9

they be for no poor men ; but I trust we shall speed of other offices meetly for us. For my Master the Earl of Oxford biddeth me ask and have. I trow [*think*] my brother Sir John shall have the Constableship of Norwich Castle, with 20*l.* of Fee ; all the Lords be agreed to it.

Tidings, the Earl of ³ Worcester is like to die this day, or to-morrow at the farthest ; John Pilkington, M. W. at Clyff, and Fowler are taken, and in the Castle of Pomfret, and are like to die hastily, without they be dead. Sir Thomas Montgomery and Joudone be taken, what shall fall of them I cannot say.

The ⁴ Queen that was, and the Duchefs of ⁵ Bedford be in Sanctuary at Westminster ; the Bishop of ⁶ Ely with other Bishops are in Saint Martin's ; when I hear more, I shall send you more ; I pray God send you all your desires. Written at London on Saint Edward's even.

Your Son and humble Servant,

J. PASTON.

London, Thursday,
11th of October, 1470, 10 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

Mother, I beseech you, that Brome may be spoken to, to gather up my Silver at Guyton in all haste possible, for I have no money. Also that it like you, that John Milfent may be spoken to, to keep well my Grey Horse, an [*if*] he be alive, and

⁵ Jaqueline, of Luxemburgh, Duchefs-dowager of Bedford, and Widow of Sir Richard Widville or Woodville, Mother to Elizabeth.

⁶ William Gray, a man of family and great learning, was placed in this See by Pope Nicholas the V. in 1454. He was Lord Treasurer to Edward IV. and died in 1478.

that

on hym and y^t he have konnȳg Lechys to look to hym As
for my comȳg hom I knowe no ferteunte for I terry tyll my
Lady of Norff com to go thorow w^t the maters and she shall
not be here tyll fonday.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

To my right dere and welbeloved Brother Thomas Veer.

RIGHT Dere and welbeloved brother I com'nd me hertly
unto you c'tyfyng you that I have receyved yo^r w'tyng
directed now laſte unto me by my f'vant Will'm Cooke by
which I und'ſtande the faithfull gwydyng and diſpoſicōn of the
Cuntre to my gret Cumfote and Pleaſer, which I dowbte not
ſhall redunde to the gretheſt p'syng and worſhip that eu' dide
till eny Cuntre c'tyfyng you ferd'more that by Nicheson of
yo^r other tydyngs laſte ſend unto me Alſo thes by Robt Port'
I have diſpoſed me w^t all the power that I can make in Eſſex
and Suff' Cambrygeſhire and other places to be on monday next
comȳg at Bury whiche p'poſe I intende to obſ've w^t Godds g'ce
towards you in to Norff' to the aſſiſtence of you and the Cuntre
in caſe Edwardē w^t his Companye had aryved ther and yete
I ſhall do the ſame nōghtw^tſtandyng for if he aryve northwarde
4 like

that he spare no meat on him, and that he have cunning Leeches to look to him. As for my coming home, I know no certainty, for I tarry till my Lady of Norfolk come to go through with the matters, and she shall not be here till Sunday.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

To my right dear and well beloved Brother, Thomas Veer.

RIGHT dear and well beloved Brother, I commend me heartily unto you; certifying you that I have received your writing, directed now last unto me, by my servant William Cooke, by which I understand the faithful guiding and disposition of the Country to my great Comfort and Pleasure; which I doubt not shall redound to the greatest praising and worship that ever did till [to] any Country; certifying you furthermore, that by Nichefon of your other tidings last sent unto me; also these by Robert Porter. I have disposed me with all the power that I can make in Essex and Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and other places, to be on Monday next coming at Bury, which purpose I intend to observe with God's Grace towards you into Norfolk, to the assistance of you and the Country, in case Edward with his Company had arrived there, and yet I shall do the same notwithstanding; for if he arrive Northward, like
as

like as ye wete by likelyhode he shulde I caste to folow and porsew hym and where ye desire that I shulde fend you woorde what disposicōn shalbe take in the Cuntre wher ye be I desire you that ye by theadvyse of the Gentilmē which ben there chese iij or iiij and fend theym to me at Bury on monday next and than I and they w^t my Counceyle shall take a Direccōn for the Sur'tie of all that Cuntre by Godds g'ce by whome I shall fend than to you relacōn whed^r ye shall remayne still ther yo^r selff or resorte to me w^t all thos that be acompayned w^t you and Jh'u p'f've you. At Hithingh'm the xiiij day of Marche.

By your loving brother,

Drumford.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark, Wheels, &c.

Pl. x. N^o 9.

L E T-

Sir Thomas de Vere, Knight, was third brother to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. It appears from this Letter, that the County of Norfolk was in the interest of Henry VI. and by the Orders which it contains, that the Earl had had advice from his Brother of the appearance of Edward's Fleet on that Coast, and of its proceeding from thence to the North.

Hollingshed

as ye weet by likelihood he should, I cast [*intend*] to follow and pursue him, and where(*as*) ye desire that I should send you word what disposition shall be taken in the Country where ye be, I desire you, that ye, by the advice of the Gentlemen which be there, chuse three or four and send them to me at Bury on Monday next; and then I and they, with my Council, shall take a direction for the surety of all that Country by God's grace; by whom I shall send then to you relation, whether ye shall remain still there yourself, or resort to me with all those that be accompanied with you, and Jesu preserve you. At Hithingham [*Heningham*] the 14th day of March.

By your loving Brother,

OXYNFORD.

Heningham, or Hedingham Castle, in Essex,

14th of March, 1470, 11 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

Hollingshed informs us, that Edward came before Cromer, in Norfolk, on the 12th of March, where he sent on shore Sir Robert Chamberlaine, Sir Gilbert Debenham, and others, to understand how the Country stood affected. They found the vigilance of the Earl of Oxford, and the great preparations he had made, were such, that it would be unsafe to land, and therefore they steered Northwards.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 5. Pl. XIV. N^o 24.

L E T T E R IIIIIII.

*To my right trusty and welbelovyd Henry Spilman Thos Seyve
John Seyve James Radclif John Brampton the older and to
eche of them.*

TRUSTY and welbeloved I comēde me to you lettyng
you witte that I have credible tydyngs that the Kyngs
gret enemyes and rebellis accompanied w^t enemyes estūngers be
nowe aryved and landyd in the north p'ties of this his land to
the utter destruction of his roiall p'sone and subu'sion of all
his realm if they myght atayne whom to encountr' and resiste
the Kings Highnesse hath comūded and assigned me under
his seall sufficient power and auctorite to call reyse gad'r and
assemble fro tyme to tyme all his liege people of the Shir' of
Norff' and other places to assiste ayde and strenght me in the
same entent Wherfor in the Kyngs name and by auctorite
aforesaid I straitly charge and comānd you and in my owne
byhalf hertly desir' and p̄y you that all excuses leid ap't ye
and eche of you in your owne p'sones defensibly araied w^t
asmony

This spirited Letter was written immediately after notice of the landing of Edward at Ravenspur, in Yorkshire, on the 14th of March; but whether the forces raised in Norfolk, and the neighbouring Counties, marched towards Newark does not appear; —if they did, they and those they might meet there, never faced Edward's Army, which came forwards to the Earl of Warwick's Forces intrenched at Coventry. Edward there
made

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

To my right trusty and well beloved Henry Spilman, Thomas Seyve, John Seyve, James Radclif, John Brampton the elder, and to each of them.

TRUSTY and well beloved, I commend me to you, letting you weet, that I have credible tidings that the King's great Enemies and Rebels, accompanied with Enemies Estrangers, be now arrived, and landed in the North parts of this his land, to the utter destruction of his royal person, and subversion of all his realm, if they might attain; whom to encounter and resist the King's Highness hath commanded and assigned me, under his Seal, sufficient power and authority to call, raise, gather, and assemble, from time to time, all his liege people of the shire of Norfolk, and other places to assist, aid, and strengthen me in the same intent.

Wherefore in the King's name, and by authority aforeaid, I straitly charge and command you, and in my own behalf heartily desire and pray you, that, all excuses laid a-part, ye and each

made a feint of attacking them, but being joined by his Brother the Duke of Clarence, it was determined to omit that, and proceed immediately to London; where he arrived on the 11th of April, without opposition, and instantly re-assumed the Government of the Kingdom.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 5.

asmony men as ye may goodly make be on fryday next comyng at Lynne and so forth to Newark wher' w^t the leve of God, I shall not faile to be at that tyme entending fro thence to goo foorth w^t the help of God you and my fryndes to the recountr of the faid enemyes And that ye faill not hereof as ye tendr' the weele of our faid Sou'eygne Lord and all this his realme Written at Bury the xixth day of Marche.

Drynford.

12 by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N^o 3.

LETTER IIII.

*To the right Worshipfull and sp'all singler Maister Sr. John
Paston knyght be this delyu'ed.*

AFTER due recomendacōn hadde w^t all my f'vyce, &c.
(Here follow Copies of Indictments and Appeals procured
against Sr. John Paston, and his Servants; — and likewise other
law busyness.)

As for tydyngs here in y^{is} cuntre be many tales, and non
accorth w^t other, it is tolde me by the Undirshireve that my
Lord of Clarence is goon to his brother late Kyng in so moche
that

of you, in your own persons defensibly arrayed, with as many men as ye may goodly make, be on Friday next coming at Lynne, and so forth to Newark; where, with the leave of God, I shall not fail to be at that time; intending from thence to go forth with the help of God, you, and my Friends to the re-counter of the said Enemies; and that ye fail not hereof, as ye tender the weal of our said Sovereign Lord, and all this his Realm. Written at Bury, the 19th day of March.

OXYNFORD.

Bury,
19th of March,
1470, 11 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

L E T T E R XXXIX.

To the right worshipful and special Singular Master, Sir John Paston, knight, be this delivered.

AFTER due recommendation had, with all my service, &c. (*Here follow Copies of Indictments and Appeals procured against Sir John Paston, and his Servants;—and likewise other law business.*)

As for tidings, here in this Country be many Tales, and none accord with other; it is told me by the Under Sheriff, that my Lord of Clarence is gone to his Brother late King; infomuch

that his men have the ¹ Gorget on their breefts and y^e Rose
ou' it And it is feid that y^e Lord ² Howard hath p'clamed
Kyng E Kyng of Ingland in Suff, &c.

Yōs and at yo^r comandement,

³ James Gresh'm.

Paper Mark,
A Pair of Shears,
Pl. XI. N^o 11.
12 by 16 $\frac{1}{2}$.

¹ A Collar worn round the neck.

L E T T E R XL.

To my Moodre.

MOODRE I recomande me to yow letyng yow wette y^e
blyffed be God my brother John is a lyffe and farethe
well and in no p'ell off dethe. Neu' the lesse he is hurt w^t
an Arow on hys ryght arme be nethe y^e elbow and I have
sent hym a Serion whyche hathe dresfid hym and he tellythe me
y^t he trustythe y^t he schall be all holl w^t in ryght schort tyme.
It is so y^t John Mylsent is ded God have m'cy on hys Sowle and
Wyll'm Mylsent is on lyffe and hys other Servants all be
askepyd by all lyklihod.

It'm as ffor me I ame in good case blyffyd be God and in
no Jop'te off my lyffe as me lyst my self for I am at my lyberte

insomuch that his men have the ¹ Gorget on their breasts, and the Rose over it. And it is said, that the Lord ² Howard hath proclaimed King E (*dward*) King of England in Suffolk.

Yours, and at your Commandment,

³ JAMES GRESHAM.

Latter end of March,
or beginning of April,
1471, 11 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

² John Howard, afterwards the first Duke of Norfolk of that name.

³ Pl. III. N^o 28.

L E T T E R XL.

To my Mother

MOTHER, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that, blessed be God, my brother John (*Pafton*) is alive and fareth well, and in no peril of death; nevertheless he is hurt with an Arrow on his right arm, beneath the elbow; and I have sent him a Surgeon, which hath dressed him, and he telleth me, that he trusteth that he shall be all whole within right short time.

It is so that John Milfent is dead, God have mercy on his Soul! and William Milfent is alive, and his other Servants all be escaped by all likelihood.

Item, as for me, I am in good case blessed be God; and in no jeopardy of my life, as me list myself; for I am at my liberty if need be.

Item,

iff nede bee. It'm my Lorde ¹ Archebyfshop is in the Towr neu'theleffe I truſt to God y^t he ſchall do well I noghe he hathe a Saffe garde for hym and me bothe. Neu'theleffe we have ben troblyd fyns but nowe I undreſtande y^t he hathe a Pardon and ſo we hope well.

Ther was kyllyd uppon the ffelde halffe a myle ffrom Ber-
nett on Eſterne daye ² the Erle of Warwyk, y^e Marqweys
Montacu Sr. Will'm ³ Terell Sr. Lewes Johns and dyu'fe other
Eſq̄ers off owr Contre. Godm'ſton and Bothe.

And on the Kynge Edwardes p'tye the Lord ⁴ Cromwell y^e
Lord ⁵ Saye Sr. Omffrey ⁶ Bowghſher off owr contre whyche
is a fore moonyd man her and other peple off bothe p'tyes to y^e
nombre off mor then ⁷ a m^l

As for other tythynges is undreſtande her y^t the Qwyen
Margrett

This curious Letter was written by Sir John Paſton, (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) to his Mother, the fourth day after the Battle of Barnet; wherein he had perſonally fought; and which may be ſaid to have ſettled Edward almoſt ſecurely on the throne, by depriving him of his implacable Enemy the great Earl of Warwick, who here fell, moſt furiously fighting.

His Brother, the Marquis of Montagu, ſhared the ſame fate; Sir John Paſton ſhows himſelf a true Lancaſtrian, and even now entertains great hopes of a change of affairs favourable to Henry;—theſe, I ſuppoſe, were raiſed by the landing of Queen Margaret and her Son, Prince Edward, in Dorſetſhire, but they proved of ſhort continuance, for at the fatal Battle of Tewkeſbury, fought on the 4th of May following, her Army was totally routed, and herſelf, and Son, taken Priſoners; when the latter was almoſt immediately moſt baſely murdered, in the preſence of Edward; and our Hiſtorians ſay, that this young Prince fell by the Swords of the Dukes of Clarence and Glouceſter, and of the Lords Dorſet and Haſtyngs!

He was only eighteen years of age, and was buried without any funeral pomp, in the Church of the Black Friars, in Tewkeſbury.

It ſeems ſomewhat ſurpriſing that Sir John ſhould commit to paper his wiſhes and
opinions

Item, my Lord ¹ Archbishop is in the Tower; nevertheless I trust to God, that he shall do well enough; he hath a Safe-guard for him and me both; nevertheless we have been troubled since, but now I understand, that he hath a Pardon; and so we hope well.

There was killed upon the Field, half a mile from Barnet, on Easter day, ² the Earl of Warwick, the Marquis Montagu, Sir William ³ Tyrell, Sir Lewis Johns, and divers other Esquires of our Country, Godmerston and Booth.

And on the King Edward's party, the Lord ⁴ Cromwell, the Lord ⁵ Say, Sir Humphrey ⁶ Bouchier of our Country, which is a fore moonyd [*moaned*] man here; and other people of both Parties to the number of more than ⁷ a thousand.

As for other tidings, (*it*) is understood here, that the Queen

opinions so fully, at a time when he was scarcely at liberty himself, and had reason to fear that if his sentiments were discovered his life might be in danger.

¹ George Neville, Archbishop of York;—it was from the custody of this Prelate, that Edward escaped, after having been surprised and taken Prisoner by the Earl of Warwick, in 1470; perhaps the kind treatment of his then Prisoner, now procured his Pardon.

² The Bodies of these two Noblemen were exposed three days to public view in St. Paul's Cathedral, and then conveyed to, and buried at Bisham Abbey, in Berkshire.

³ Sir William Tyrel, was Cousin to Sir James Tyrel, the afterwards supposed Murderer of Edward V. and his brother the Duke of York.

⁴ Humphrey Bouchier, third Son of Henry Earl of Essex, had summons to parliament, in 1461, as Lord Cromwell, in right of his wife.

⁵ William Fienes, Lord Say.

⁶ Son of John Lord Berners.

⁷ This number is considerably less than the least given by any of our Historians, who, some of them, made the list of slain to amount to 10,000 others to 4000, and those who speak the most moderately to 1500 men.

The Battle of Barnet began on the morning, and lasted till afternoon on Easter Sunday, the 14th of April, 1471.

^s Margrett is verrelly londyd and hyr Sone in the west Contre and I trow y^t as to morow or ellys y^e next daye the Kynge Edward wyll dep't ffrom hense to hyr warde to dryve her owt ageyn. It'm I besече yow y^t I may be recomendyd to my Cosyn Lomner and to thanke hym ffor hys goode wyll to me wardes iff I had hadde nede as I undrestood by the berer heroff and I besече you on my behalve to advyse hym to be well ware off hys delyng or langage as yit ffor the worlde I ensur yow is ryght qwesye as ye schall know w^t in thys monthe the peple heer feerythe it foor.

God hathe schewyd hym selffe marvelouslye lyke hym y^t made all and can undoo ageyn whan hym lyft, and I kan thynke y^t by all lyklyod schall schewe hym sylff as mervylous ageyn and that in schort tyme and as I suppose offter then onys in casis lyke.

It'm it is soo that my brother is on p'veyed off monye, I have holpyn hym to my power and above. Wherffor as it pleasythe yow remembre hym, ffor kan not p'veye ffor my selffe in y^e fame case.

Wretyn at London the thorysdaye in Esterne weke I hope hastely to see yow.

All ⁹ thys bylle most be secrett, be ye not adoghtyd off the worlde ffor I trust all schall be well, iff it thusse contene

^s Queen Margaret, and Prince Edward her Son, landed at Weymouth, in Dorsetshire, about the 13th or 14th of April.

⁸ Margaret is verily landed and her Son, in the West Country, and I trow [*believe*] that as to-morrow or else the next day, the King Edward will depart from hence to her ward, to drive her out again.

Item, I beseech you that I may be recommended to my Cousin Lomner, and to thank him for his good will to me ward, if I had had need, as I understood by the Bearer hereof; and I beseech you on my behalf to advise him to be well ware of his dealing or language as yet, for the world, I assure you, is right queasy [*unsettled*] as ye shall know within this month; the People here feareth it fore.

God hath shewed himself marvellously like him that made all, and can undo again when him list; and I can think that by all likelihood shall shew himself as marvellous again, and that in short time; and, as I suppose, oftener than once in cases like.

Item, it is so, that my Brother is unpurveyed [*unprovided*] of money, I have holpen [*helped*] him to my power and above; wherefore, as it pleaseth you, remember him, for cannot purvey for myself in the same case.

Written at London the Thursday in Easter week.

I hope hastily to see you. ⁹ All this bill must be secret. Be ye not adoubted [*suspicious*] of the world, I trust all shall

⁹ Sir John had sufficient reason to say, "All this bill must be secret," for if the conclusion of this Letter had been seen by the York Party; his Liberty, if not his Life, would have been at stake.

I ame not all undon nor noon off us and iff otherwyse,
then, &c. &c.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. XI. N^o 10.

LETTER XLII.

To the ryght rev'ent and wyrchypfull ^r Lady.

RYGHTE reu'ent and wyrchypfull Lady I recomande me to yow lettyng yow wete that I am in gret hevynes at the making of thys Lett' but thankyd be God I am eschapyd my selfe and sodenly dep'tyd fro my men for I undyrstand my Chapleyn wold have detrayed me and if he com in to the Contre let hym be mad feu' &c. Also ye shall gyff credence to the bryng' of thys Lett' and I beseke yow to reward hym to hys costs for I was not in power at the making of thys Lett' to gyff hym but as I wafs put in trest by favar of strange pepyll, &c.

Also ye shall fend me in all hast all the redi money that ye
can

This curious and secret Letter, without Name, Date, or Direction, was written by some Person of consequence in this reign, and I believe by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, after the unsuccessful battle of Barnet, fought on the 14th of April, 1471, when he retreated with some of his men towards Scotland; but discovering a design to betray him, he privately left them, and went into Wales to join the Earl of Pembroke. The supplies
of

be well ; if it thus continue, I am not all undone, nor none of us ; and if otherwise then, &c. &c.

London,
Thursday, 18th of April,
1471, 11 E. IV.

L E T T E R XLI.

To the right reverend and worshipful ¹ Lady.

RIGHT reverend and worshipful Lady, I recommend me to you, letting you weet that I am in great heaviness at the making of this Letter ; but thanked be God, I am escaped myself, and suddenly departed from my men ; for I understand my Chaplain would have betrayed [*betrayed*] me ; and if he come into the Country, let him be made sure, &c.

Also ye shall give credence to the Bringer of this letter, and I beseech you to reward him to his costs ; for I was not in power at the making of this letter to give him, but as I was put in trust by favour of strange people, &c.

Also ye shall send me in all haste all the ready money that ye of men and money, &c. herein required to be sent to him, were intended to strengthen the Queen's army, which was now with the utmost expedition assembling, and which, before the Earls of Pembroke and Oxford could join it, was totally routed at Tewkesbury, on the 4th of May following.

¹ Margaret, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and Sister to the late Earl of Warwick, and Wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

can

can make and affe mone of my mē affe can com well horfyd and that they cū in dyu'se p'cellys, Also that my horffe be sent w' my stele Sadelles and byd the yoman of the horse cou' theym w' leddr. Also ye shall send to my ² Modr and let hyr wete of thys Lett' and pray hyr of hyr bleffynge and byd hyr send me my Kasket by thys tokyn that she hathe the Key theroff but it is brokyn.

Also ye shall send to the Pryor of ³ Thetford and byd hym send me the S'm of gold that he seyde that I schuld have. Also sey to hym by thys ⁴ token that I schewyd hym the fyrst p've Seale, &c. Also lete Pastun, Fylbryg Brews com' to me. Also ye shall delyu' the bryng' of thys Lett' an horffe sadell and brydell Also ye schallbe of gud cher and take no thowght for I schall brynge my ⁵ purpose abowte now by the g'ce of God qwhome have yow in kepyng.

⁶ D D.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. x. N^o 1.

² Elizabeth, Daughter and Heir of Sir John Howard, Knight, who was Uncle to John Howard, first Duke of Norfolk of that name. She was now the widow of John de Vere, late Earl of Oxford.

³ John Vescey, Prior of Thetford, from 1441 to 1479.

⁴ The precision of the privy tokens shews the caution observed, lest the Money, &c. should be fraudulently obtained by making use of his name only.

can make ; and as many of my men, as can come well horsed, and that they come in diverse parcels.

Also that my best horses be sent with my steel saddles, and bid the Yeoman of the horse cover them with leather.

Also ye shall send to my ² Mother, and let her weet of this letter, and pray her of her blessing, and bid her send me my Casket, by this token ; *that she hath the Key thereof, but it is broken.*

Also ye shall send to the Prior of ³ Thetford, and bid him send me the Sum of Gold that he said that I should have ; also say to him by this ⁴ token ; *that I shewed him the first Privy Seal, &c.*

Also let Paston, Felbrig, and Brews, come to me.

Also ye shall deliver the bringer of this letter an horse, saddle, and bridle.

Also ye shall be of good cheer, and take no thought [*be not melancholy*], for I shall bring my ⁵ purpose about now by the grace of God, who have you in keeping.

⁶ D D.

April, 1471, 11 E. IV.

⁵ This shews the expectations formed by this last attempt of the Queen and Prince Edward.

⁶ For an exact Copy of this Signature, of which the first Character may be supposed to resemble an O, and the last a D, though this is *only* supposition, see Pl. IV. N^o 6.

L E T-

LETTER XLIII.

*To Mestresse Margret Paston or to John Paston Esquier byr
Sone in hast.*

RYGHTE well belovyd brother I comende me to yow letyng yow wete y^t I am in wellffar I thanke God and have ben euyr fyns y^t I spake last w^t yow, and mervayle for y^t ye sent neu' wryghtyng to me fyns ye departyd I herde nevyr syn' y^t tyme any worde out off Norff' ye myght aft ¹ Bertlemai feyr have had messengers I nowe to London and iff ye had sent to Wykys he scholde have cōveyed it to me. I herde yist'daye y^t a Worsted man off Norff, y^t solde ² Worstedys at Wynchest' seyde y^t my Lord of Norff' and my Lady wer on pylgrymage at ³ Our Lady on ffoot and so they went to Cast' and y^t at Norwyche on scholde have had large langage to yow and callyd yow ⁴ Traytor and pyked many q'rellys to yow, fende me worde ther off, it wer well doo y^t ye wer a lytell fewrer off yowr pardon than ye be auyse you, I deme ye woll her afftr ellys repent yow.

I undre-

This Letter contains no Anecdotes of much consequence, yet we may learn from it how little intercourse was kept up between one part of the kingdom and another; no opportunity perhaps having occurred of sending a Letter from Norwich to London, unless at the time of the Fair; another thing strikes us, which is, the use that Pilgrims were of, in conveying intelligence. The advice which Sir John (Pl. iv. N^o 10.)
hints

L E T T E R XLII.

To Mrs. Margaret Paston, or to John Paston, Esquire, her Son, in haste.

RIGHT well beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet, that I am in welfare I thank God, and have been ever since that I spake last with you; and marvel for that ye sent never writing to me since ye departed; I heard never since that time any word out of Norfolk; ye might at ¹ Bartholomew Fair have had Messengers enough to London, and if ye had sent to Wykes, he should have conveyed it to me. I heard yesterday, that a Worsted man of Norfolk, that sold ² Worsteds at Winchester, said, that my Lord of Norfolk and my Lady were on Pilgrimage at ³ Our Lady on foot, and so they went to Caister; and that at Norwich one should have had large language to you, and called you ⁴ Traitor, and picked many quarrels to you; send me word thereof; it were well done, that ye were a little surer of your pardon than ye be, advise you, I deem ye will hereafter else repent you.

hints to his brother is good, and his anxious concern for the safety of his young brethren, gives us a favourable opinion of his kind disposition towards them.

¹ Bartholomew Fair, in Smithfield.

² Worsted, in Norfolk, a town formerly famous for the spinning of the fine thread, with which the yarn called Worsted is made.

³ Of Walsingham.

⁴ This refers to the part he had taken previous to, and at, the restoration of Henry VI.

I undrestonde y^t Bastarde ⁵ Faucōbryge is owther hedyd or lyke to be and hys brother bothe; Some men feye he wolde have deservyd it and som sey naye.

I p'pose to be att London the ffyrst daye off the terme fend me worde, whethyr ye schall be ther or nott.

It'm I wolde wete whether ye have spoken wyth my Lady off Norff' or not and off hyr disposicōn and the howfoldys to me and to yow wardes and whether it be a possibie to have Cast' ageyn and ther goodewylles or not; and also I praye yow undrestande what ffelafchyp and guydyng is in Cast' and have a fpye refortyng in and owt, so maye ye know the secretys among them. Ther is moche adoo in the Northe as men seyn I pray yow be ware off yowr guydyng and in cheff off yowr langage, and so y^t ffro hense fforthe by yowr langage noo man p'ceyve y^t ye ffavor any p'son cōtrary to y^e Kynges plefur. I undrestonde y^t y^e Lord ⁶ Ryu's hathe lycence off y^e Kyng to goo to Portyngale now wⁱⁿ thys vij nyght. I pray yow recomande me to my modre and beseche hyr off hyr blyssyng on my be halve. (*Here follow some directions about payments of money.*) It'm I praye yow fende me worde iff any off owr ffrendys or wellwyllers be dede, ffor I feer y^t ther is grete dethe in Norwyche and in other Borowgh townese in Norff',

⁵ Thomas Neville, the natural Son 'of William, Lord Fauconberg, called the Bastard Fauconberg, having adhered to Henry VI. was, on his taking the Government, appointed Vice Admiral of the Channel, which place, on the change of affairs, he lost; and being a man of loose Character, first turned Pirate, and then landing, collected a large army, with which he attempted to surprise London; where being repulsed, he retired, and on the

I understand that Bastard ⁵ Fauconbridge is either headed, or like to be, and his Brother both; some men say he would have deserved it, and some say nay.

I purpose to be at London the first day of the term, send me word whether ye shall be there or not.

Item, I would weet whether ye have spoken with my Lady of Norfolk, or not, and of her disposition and the household's to me and to you wards, and whether it be a possible (*thing*) to have Caister again and their good Wills, or not.

And also I pray you understand what Fellowship and Guiding is in Caister; and have a Spy resorting in and out, so may ye know the secrets amongst them.

There is much ado in the North, as men say; I pray you beware of your Guiding, and in chief of your language, so that from henceforth, by your language no man perceive, that ye favour any person contrary to the King's pleasure.

I understand that the Lord ⁶ Rivers hath Licence of the King to go to Portugal now within this seven-night.

I pray you recommend me to my Mother, and beseech her of her blessing on my behalf. (*Here follow some directions about payments of money.*)

Item, I pray you send me word, if any of our Friends or Wellwillers be dead, for I fear that there is great death in Norwich, and in other Borough Towns in Norfolk; for I en-

King's advancing towards him submitted; when he was not only pardoned, but knighted, and again appointed Vice Admiral. This happened in May 1471, but was of short continuance, for between the 13th and 29th of September following, he was beheaded, though whether for any fresh crime or not is uncertain.

⁶ On a Pilgrimage.

Norff', ffor I ensur you it is the most unyu'sall dethe y^t euyr I wyft in Ingelonde ffor by my trowthe I kan not her by Pylgrymes y^t passe y^e contre nor noon other man y^t rydethe or gothe any contre y^t any borow town in Ingelonde is ffree ffrom y^t ' Sykenesse God scase it whan it pleasyt hym. Wherffor ffor Goddysake late my Moodre take heede to my yonge brytheren that they be not in noon place wher that sykenesse is regnyng, nor that they dysport not w^t noon other yonge peple whyche refortythe wher any sykenesse is, and iff y^r be any off that sykenesse ded or enffect in Norwyche ffor Goddes sake lete hyr sende them to som ffrende off hyrse in to the contre and do ye y^e same by myn advyce, late my Moodre rather remeve hyr howsesolde in to y^e contre.

Even now Thyriston browt me word ffro London y^t it was Doctor Aleyn y^t cawfyd yowr troble y^t ye had at Norwych, and y^t John Pampyng roode ffor a dyscharge ffor yow and y^t he hathe sped well but hōghe y^t wot I nott, iff ye be cleer owt off Doctor Aleyn danger kepe yow ther and her afftr ye maye schoffe as well at hys carte I praye yow sende me worde off all the fforme off hys delyng w^t yow.

I had almost spoke w^t Mestresse An' Hault, but I dyd not nevyrthelesse thys next terme I hope to take on weye w^t hyr or other sche is agreyd to speke w^t me and sche hopythe to doo me ease as sche saythe.

² I do not find this year marked by our Historians, as a year of Sicknes.

sure [*assure*] you, it is the most universal Death that ever I wist in England; for by my truth, I cannot hear by Pilgrims that pass the country, nor none other man that rideth or goeth any country, that any Borough Town in England is free from that ⁷ Sicknes; God cease it, when it please him.

Wherefore for God's sake, let my Mother take heed to my young Brethren, that they be not in none place where that Sicknes is reigning, nor that they disport not with none other young people, which resorteth where any sickness is; and if there be any of that sickness dead or enfect [*infected*] in Norwich, for God's sake, let her send them to some friend of hers into the country, and do ye the same by mine advice; let my Mother rather remove her household into the country.

Even now Thyrston brought me word from London, that it was Doctor Allen that caused your trouble that ye had at Norwich; and that John Pampyng rode for a discharge for you, and that he hath sped well, but how, that wot I not; if ye be clear out of Doctor Allen's danger, keep you there, and hereafter ye may scoff as well at his carte [*q. cost?*]; I pray you send me word of all the form of his dealing with you.

I had almost spoken with Mrs. Anne Hault, but I did not, nevertheless this next term I hope to take one way with her or other; she is agreed to speak with me, and she hopeth to do me ease, as she saith.

I pray

I p'ye yow fende me worde hoghe ye doo w^t my Lady Elyfabeth Boghscher ye have a lytell chaffyd it but I can not tell howe, fende me worde whether ye be in bett' hope or werse. I her seye y^t the Erle off Oxenffordys bretheryn be goon out off ^s Sceyntewarye, Sr. Thom's ⁹ Fulfforthe is goon owt off Sceyntewarye and a gret ffelafchyp ffettchyd hym a iij^{xx} and they sey y^t w^t in v myle off London he was CC men and no man watethe wher he is become not yit.

The Lordes Haftyngs and Howerd be in Caley's and have it pefebely and Sr. Walter Wrettesle and Sr. Jeffrey Gate be comyn thense and woll be at London thys daye as it is seyde.

Wretyn at Walth'm besyd Winchest' the daye nex ¹⁰ Holy Roode daye.

A. P. K.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head.
Pl. XI. N^o 12.

^s Till the reign of Henry VIII. all our Churches and Church-yards were Sanctuaries, and protected Traitors, Murderers, &c. if within forty days they acknowledged their fault, and submitted themselves to banishment;—the most eminent Sanctuaries in England were St. John's of Beverley, St. Martin's Le Grand, Rippon in Yorkshire, St. Burien's in Cornwall, and Westminster.

L C T.

I pray you fend me word how ye do with my Lady Elizabeth Bouchier, ye have a little chaffed it, but I cannot tell how; fend me word whether ye be in better hope or worfe.

I hear fay that the Earl of Oxford's Brethren be gone out of⁸ Sanctuary. Sir Thomas⁹ Fulforth is gone out of Sanctuary, and a great Fellowship fetched him, a three score, and they fay, that within five miles of London he was 200 men, and no man wateth [*knoweth*] where he is become not yet. The Lords Hastings and Howard be in Calais, and have it peaceably; and Sir Walter Wrottesly and Sir Jeffrey Gate be coming thence, and will be at London this day as it is said.

Written at Waltham beside Winchester the day next¹⁰ Holy Rood day.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

13th or 15th of September,
1471, 11 E. IV.

⁸ Sir Thomas Fulford, was Son of Sir Baldwin Fulford, beheaded at Bristol, in 1461; he likewise ended his life on the Scaffold.

¹⁰ Holyrood day, 14th of September.

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

To hys well belovyd John Paston esq̄r at Norwiche or to Mestresse Margret hys Modre.

I Comande me to yow letyng yow weet that, &c. (*Here follows an account that the Duchess of ¹ Suffolk and Duke of Norfolk intend again commencing appeals against Sir John Paston and his brother, &c. concerning Caister, &c.*) I wolde ffayne have the mesur wher my ffadre lythe at ² Bromholm bothe the thyknesse and cōpase off the peler at hys hed and ffrom that the spase to y^c Alter and the thyknesse off that Alter and Imagery off tymbre werk and what hyght the arche is to the gronde off y^c Ilde and how hye the grounde off the Qwyr is hyer than the grownde off y^c Ilde.

It'm I praye yowe late the mesur by pekthred be taken or elt mesured by yerde, how moche is ffrom the northe gate ther the brygge was at ³ Grefsh'm to y^c fowthewall, and in lyke fforme ffrom the Este syde to y^c west, also the hyght off the estewall and the hyght off y^c fowthest towr ffrom y^c grownde iff ye maye easely. Also what bredde eu'y towr is w'in y^c wall and whych towr is moor then other w'in.

We may from this Letter pick out some curious particulars relative to the Church of Bromholm Abbey, in Norfolk, and likewise form some plan of the embattled Mansion of the Pastons at Gresham, in Norfolk, Buildings which are now both in ruins.

¹ Elizabeth, Sister of Edward IV.

Also

L E T T E R XLIII.

*To his well beloved John Paston, Esquire, at Norwich, or to
Mrs. Margaret, his Mother.*

I Commend me to you, letting you weet that, &c. (*Here follows
an account, that the Duchefs of ¹ Suffolk and Duke of Nor-
folk intend again commencing Appeals against Sir John Paston
and his Brother, &c. concerning Caister, &c.*) I would fain
have the measure where my Father lieth at ² Bromholm; both
the thicknes, and compafs of the Pillar at his head, and from
that, the fpace to the Altar, and the thicknes of that Altar, and
Imagery of timber work; and what height the Arch is to the
ground of the Ifle, and how high the ground of the Choir is
higher than the ground of the Ifle.

Item, I pray you let the measure by packthread be taken, or
elfe meafured by yard, how much is from the North Gate,
where the Brigg was, at ³ Gresham to the South Wall, and in
like form from the East Side to the West; alfo the height of the
East Wall, and the height of the South-east Tower from the
ground, if ye may eafily. Alfo what breadth every Tower is
within the Wall, and which Tower is more than other within.

² John Paston was most fumptuously buried in the Abbey Church of Bromholm, in 1466; these meafures, I fuppofe, were required in order to adopt a Plan for his monument.

³ This manfion, built by the Stutevilles, was, by licence from Edward II. embattled by the Bacons; Sir William Paston, the Judge, purchafed this estate.

Alſſo how manye ffote or what brede eche towr takythe wⁱⁿ iche corner off y^e q[']drate ⁴ ovyrthwert the dorys and how many taylors yards is from y^e moote fyde wher the brygg was to y^e hyghe weye or to y^e heddge all a longe the entre and what brede the entre is be twyen y^e dykys. I praye yow iff ye have a leyſer in any wyſe ſe thys doone yowrſelffe, iff ye maye or ellys iff Pampyng do it or who y^t ye thynke can doo it I wolle ſpende xx^d or as ye ſeme to have the ſ'tayn off eu'y thyng her in. And as for my ffaders tombe I charge yow ſe it yowr ſelffe, and when I ſpeke w^t yow I woll tell yow the cawſes why y^t I deſyr thys to be doon.

As ffor tydyngs the Kyng and y^e Qwyen and moche other pepell ar ryden and goon to Canterbury nevyr ſo moche peple ſeyn in ⁵ Pylgrymage hertoſor at ones as men ſeye.

Alſſo it is ſeyde y^t y^e erle of ⁶ Penbroke is taken on to Brettayn and men ſaye y^t the Kynge ſchall have delyu'e off hym haſtely, and ſom ſeye y^t the Kynge off France woll ſe hym faſſe and ſchall fett hym at lyb'te ageyn.

It'm Thom's Fauconbrydge hys hed was yeſt'daye fett uppon London brydge lokyng into Kent warde and men ſeye y^t hys brother was ſor hurte and ſcope to Seyntwarye to Beu'le.

St. Thom's Fulfforthe eſcaped owt of Weſtm' w^t an C' ſperys as men ſeye and is in to Devenſhyr and ther he hathe ſtrekyn

⁴ The Drawing, here given in the Original Letter, is intended, by Sir John Paſton, for a Plan of the Quadrangle at Greſham, and if we ſuppoſe that the projection in the ſide repreſents the Bridge, then that muſt be the North ſide, and ſo we have a complete Ichnography of the whole. See Pl. xi. N^o 17.

⁵ Perhaps on account of the Sickneſs mentioned in the laſt Letter.

Also how many foot, or what breadth each Tower taketh within each corner of the Quadrate ⁴ overthwart the Doors, and how many Taylor's Yards is from the Mote side, where the Brigg was, to the highway, or to the hedge all along the Entry, and what breadth the Entry is between the Dikes.

I pray you, if ye have a leisure in any wise, see this done yourself if ye may, or else if Pampyng do it, or who that ye think can do it; I would spend 20*l*. or as ye seem [*more, if you think proper*], to have the certain of every thing herein.

And as for my Father's Tomb, I charge you see it yourself, and when I speak with you, I will tell you the causes, why that I desire this to be done.

As for tidings, the King, and the Queen, and much other People, are ridden and gone to Canterbury, never so much people seen in ⁵ Pilgrimage heretofore at once, as men say.

Also it is said, that the Earl of ⁶ Pembroke is taken unto Bretagne; and men say, that the King shall have delivery of him hastily; and some say, that the King of France will see him safe, and shall set him at liberty again.

Item, Thomas Fauconbridge his head was yesterday set upon London Bridge, looking into Kent ward; and men say, that his Brother was fore hurt, and escaped to Sanctuary to Beverley.

Sir Thomas Fulforth escaped out of Westminster with 100 ⁷ Spears, as men say, and is into Devonshire, and there he hath

⁶ Jasper Tudor de Hatfield, Earl of Pembroke, half brother to Henry VI. He went into Bretany, to his Nephew, Henry, Earl of Richmond, whom he attended at Bosworth Field, and was by him created Duke of Bedford; he died in 1495.

⁷ Spearmen;—men armed with Spears.

off S^r John Crokkers hed and kylt an other knyght off the Corteneys as men feye. I wolde ye hadd yowr verry p'don at onys wherfor I praye yow ffayle not to be at London w'in iiij daye afftr Seynt ⁸ Feythe ye fchall do goode in many thynges and I praye yow fende me worde heroff by the next massenger and if it come to Mestresse Elyfabeth Hyggens at y^e blak Swan sche fchall conveye it to me ffor I woll not ffayle to be ther at London ageyn w'in thys vj dayes.

Mestresse Elyfabth hathe a son and was delyu'yd w'in ij dayes afftr Seynt ⁹ Bertelmew and hyr Dowtr A. H. was y^e next daye afftr delyu'yd off an other Sone as sche feythe xj weks er hyr tyme it was crystened ¹⁰ John and is ded God save all. No mor tyll I speke w^c yow.

Wretyn at London on Mychellmesse Evyn.

A. P. B.

It'm I praye yow late some wytty Felaw or ellys yowrselff goo to y^e townes ther as thes ij women dwelle and inq're whether they be maryed fyns and ageyn or not, ffor I holde the Hoorys weddyd and iff they be than the appelys wer abbatyd ther by I remēbr not ther names ye knowe them better then I. Also in y^e Schreffvys bookys ther maye ye ffynde off them.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

L C C-

⁸ 5th of October.

⁹ 24th of August.

¹⁰ The conclusion of this Letter seems to refer to some private Amours of Sir John, (Pl.)

stricken off Sir John Crokker's head, and killed another Knight of the Courtenays, as men say: I would ye had your very [*absolute*] Pardon at once; wherefore I pray you fail not to be at London within four days after Saint^e Faith's; ye shall do good in many things, and I pray you fend me word hereof by the next messenger; and, if it come to Mrs. Elizabeth Higgens, at the Black Swan, she shall convey it to me, for I will not fail to be there at London again within this six days.

Mrs. Elizabeth hath a Son, and was delivered within two days after Saint^e Bartholomew; and her Daughter A. H. was, the next day after, delivered of another Son, as she saith, eleven weeks ere her time; it was christened^{1o} John, and is dead, God save all; no more till I speak with you.

Written at London on Michaelmas Even.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Item, I pray you let some witty Fellow, or else yourself, go to the towns there as [*where*] these two women dwell, and inquire whether they be married since and again or not, for I hold the Hoorys [*Whores*] wedded; and if they be, then the appeals were abated thereby. I remember not their names, ye know them better than I. Also in the Sheriff's Books there may ye find of them.

London,
Saturday, 28th of September,
1471, 11 E. IV.

(Pl. iv. N^o 10.) and if A. H. stand for Anne Hault, she appears to be a Mistress of his; but this is not certain, yet it is probable, by the next Letter but one, that she was his Mistress, as he there says, "he will tempt God no more so."

LET.

LETTER XLIIII.

*To my most honorabl and Tendre Modre Margrete Paston be
thys Lett' d'd.*

MOST worschypfull and kynde Moodre I comande me to yow and beseche yow off yowr dayly blyfflyng and remembraunce. Please it yow to wete thatt I have my ¹ pardon as y^e berer heroff can informe yow for cōffort wheroffe I have been the marier thys Crystmesse, and have been parte theroff w^t S^r. Geroge ² Browen and w^t my Lady myn Aunte hys wyffe, and be ffor ³ twelthe I come to my Lorde ⁴ Archebyfshope wher I have hadde as greete cheer and ben as welkom as I cowde devyse and iff I hadde ben in fewerte y^e Castr weer hadde ageyn I wolde have comen homewards thys daye.

(Here follow directions about Caister, and a hope that it might be had again by the latter end of the term, when he would come home, and put his lands and houses into order.) And I beseche yow to remembr my brother to doo hys deveyr thatt I maye have agayn my ⁵ stufte, my bookes and Vestmēts and my beddyng how so evyr he doo thoghe I scholde gyffe xx^{ti} Scutes

¹ For joining the Friends of Henry VI. in order to his restoration.

² Sir George Browne, Knight, of Beechworth Castle, in Surry.

³ Twelfth day, 6th of January.

L E T T E R XLIV.

*To my most honourable and Tender Mother Margaret Paston,
be this Letter delivered.*

MOST Worshipful and kind Mother, I commend me to you, and beseech you of your daily blessing and remembrance. Please it you to weet, that I have my ¹ Pardon, as the Bearer hereof can inform you, for comfort whereof I have been the merrier this Christmas; and have been part thereof with Sir George ² Browne, and with my Lady mine Aunt his wife; and before ³ Twelfth I came to my Lord ⁴ Archbishop, where I have had as great Cheer, and been as welcome as I could devise; and if I had been in surety that Caister were had again, I would have come home this day.

(Here follow directions about Caister, and a hope that it might be had again by the latter end of the term, when he would come home, and put his lands and houses into order.) And I beseech you to remember my Brother to do his devyr [*endeavour*] that I may have again my ⁵ stuff, my books, and vestments, and my Bedding howsoever he do, though I should give 20^{li} Scutas

⁴ George Neville, Archbishop of York.

⁵ These were what had been taken at Caister, I suppose.

by hys advyse to my Lady Brandon or som' other goode felawe.

As for any tydynges ther be noon heer, faffe y^t the Kyng hath kept a ryall Crystmesse and now they seye y^t hastelye he woll northe and some seye y^t he woll into Walys and some seye y^t he woll into the West Contre, As ffor Qween ⁶ Margrett I underston' y^t sche is remevyd from Wyndesfor to Walyngfforthe nyghe to Ewhelme my Lady of Suff' place in Oxenforthe schyre.

And men seye y^t the Lorde Ryu'se schyppyd on Crystmesse evyn in to Portyngale warde I am not ferteyn.

Also the schalle be a convocacōn off the Clergye in all hafte whyche men deeme will avayle the Kynge a Dyme and an halffe some seye. I beseche God sende yow goode heele and greater joye in on year then ye have hadde thys vij. Wretyn att the Moor the viij daye off Janeu' A^o. E. iiij xj.

By yowr Soone,

John Paston, R.

12 by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁶ Margaret, Queen of Henry VI. was taken after the Battle of Tewkesbury, and continued a Prisoner till 1475, when she was ransomed by her Father, for 50,000 crowns, which he borrowed of Lewis XI. King of France.

by his advice to my Lady Brandon, or some other good Fellow.

As for any tidings there be none here, save that the King hath kept a royal Christmas; and now they say, that hastily he will North, and some say, that he will into Wales, and some say, that he will into the West Country. As for Queen⁶ Margaret, I understand that she is removed from Windsor to Wallingford, nigh to Ewelme, my Lady of Suffolk's Place in Oxfordshire.

And men say, that the Lord Rivers shipped on Christmas Even into [*unto*] Portugal ward; I am not certain.

Also there shall be a Convocation of the Clergy in all haste, which men deem, will avail the King, a Dyme [*Tenth*] and an half, some say. I beseech God send you good health and greater joy in one year than ye have had these seven. Written at the Moor the 8th day of January, in the 11th of Edward IV.

By your Son,

⁷ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Tuesday,
8th of January, 1471,
11 E. IV.

⁷ Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

LETTER III.

A Johan Paston Esquier soit doné.

BROTHER I comande me to yow and praye yow to loke uppe my ^r tēple off Glasfe and fend it me by the berer herof.

It'm as for tydyngs I have spoken w^t Mestresse Anne Hault at a praty leyser and blyssyd be God we be as ffer fforthe as we weer toffoor and so I hoope we schall contenew and I promysed hyr that at the next leyser that I kowd ffynde therto y^t I wolde come ageyn and see hyr whyche wyll take a leyser as deeme now syn thys obfervance is over doon. I p'pose nott to tempte God noo moor soo.

Yist'day the Kynge the Qween my Lordes of Claraunce and Glowcest' wente to Scheen to pardon men sey nott alle in cheryte what wyll falle men can nott feye.

The Kynge entretyth my Lorde off Clarence ffor my Lorde
of

We have in this Letter a Clue to conduct us towards a discovery of the reason for the Duke of Gloucester's dislike to his Brother the Duke of Clarence, and if this Account be true, it had a reasonable foundation.

The Duke of Gloucester was desirous of marrying Anne (now the widow of Prince Edward, so cruelly murdered at Tewkesbury), Daughter and Coheir of the great Earl of Warwick, and Sister to Isabel, Duchefs of Clarence.

This Alliance we here find was opposed by the Duke of Clarence; not from any point of delicacy, respecting the murder of this Lady's late Husband (for, according to our
Historians,

L E T T E R XLV.

To John Paston, Esquire, be this Letter delivered.

BROTHER, I commend me to you, and pray you to look up my ¹ Temple of Glafs, and send it me by the Bearer hereof.

Item, as for tidings, I have spoken with Mrs. Anne Hault, at a pretty leisure, and blessed be God, we be as far forth as we were tofore, and so I hope we shall continue; and I promised her, that at the next leisure, that I could find thereto, that I would come again and see her; which will take a leisure as (*I*) deem now, since this observance is over done; I purpose not to tempt God no more so.

Yesterday the King, the Queen, my Lords of Clarence, and Gloucester, went to Shene to pardon; men say, not all in charity; what will fall, men cannot say.

The King entreateth my Lord of Clarence for my Lord of

Historians, he was equally concerned in that horrid act with his Brother), but because he did not relish the thought of parting with her share of the Possessions now vested in him, by his wife Isabel, the eldest Daughter and Coheir of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick; his apparent design being to deprive the younger Daughter of her Moiety of her paternal Inheritance, and retain it all himself.

This was the part not only of a covetous, but of an unjust man, and very probably produced that spirit of revenge, which afterwards ended in his destruction.

¹ A Poem, written by Stephen Hawes, who flourished in the 15th Century.

of Glowcest' and as itt is seyde he answerythe that he may weell have my Ladye hys Suft' in lawe butt they schall parte no lyvelod as he seythe so what wyll falle can I nott feye.

Thys daye I p'pose to see my Lady off ² Norff' ageyn in goode howr be it.

Ther is proferyd me Marchānts ffor Sporle woode God sende me goode Sale whan I be gynne y' poor woode is soor manashted and thrett.

Yitt woote I nott whether I come home beffoor Est'ne or nott. I schall sende yow worde no moor, &c.

Wretyn the ffyrst tewesdaye off Lenton.

³ John Paston, k.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

² Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk, was the Daughter of John Talbot, the first Earl of Shrewsbury.

L E T T E R E L U J.

To my ryght Worchepfull brodyr Sr. John Paston knyght.

RYGHTE worchepfull Sr. I recomand me to yow. (Here follows an Account of some money transactions, &c.) It'. Mastryr John Smythe tellyth me y' Sr. T. Lyneys Goodys ar not abyll to paye a q'rter of hys detts y' be axyd hym, wherfor
fyche

Gloucester ; and as it is said, he answereth, that he may well have my Lady his Sister in law, but they shall part no Livelihood, as he saith, so what will fall can I not say.

This day I purpose to see my Lady of ² Norfolk again, in good hour be it !

There is proffered me Merchants for Sporle wood, God send me good Sale, when I begin ; that poor Wood is forely managed and treated.

Yet wot I not whether I come home before Easter or not, I shall send you word ; no more, &c.

Written the first Tuesday of Lent.

³ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Tuesday,
17th of February, 1471,
11 E. IV.

³ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

L E T T E R XLVI.

To my right worshipful Brother, Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you. (*Here follows an Account of some money transactions, &c.*) Item, Master John Smythe telleth me, that Sir T. Lyney's Goods are not able to pay a quarter of his debts that be asked him, wherefore

fyche money as is be left it most be^r devydyd to eu'y man a p'te aftyr the quantyte whyche dyvyfyon is not yet mad, but when it is mad he hathe promyseyd me y^t yo^r part shalbe worthe^r iij the best, &c.

It' as for I of Barneys hors whoso have leest need to hym he shall cost hym xx marks not a peny lesse.

Ye fend me woord of y^e maryage of my Lady Jane, o maryage for an other on Norfe and Bedford were² axed in the chyrche on sonday last past. As for my Syft' Anne my modyr wyll not remeve fro W. Yellu'ton for Bedyngfeld for she hathe comend ferther in y^t mater fyn ye wer in y^{is} contre as it aperyth in hyr lettyr y^t she sendyth yow by Thyrston.

Tydyngs her my Lady of Norff' is w^t chyld she wenyth hyrself and so do all y^e women abowght hyr infomyche she waytys the qwykn̄g w^t in thes vj wekys at the ferthest. Also W. Gernay wenyth that Heydon is fwyr of Saxthorp and that Lady Boleyn of Gwton. John Osberne avyfythe yow to take brethe for yo^r Wodfale at Sporle for he hathe cast it that it is woorth as good as ix^{xx}li bewar of Montayn for he may not pay yow so moche mony w^t hys ease.

I prey yow recomand me to Sr. John Parre w^t all my fervys and tell hym by my trouthe I longyd never forer to see my Lady than I do to se hys Mast'shepe And I prey God that he aryse never a morn̄g fro my Lady hys wyff w^t owght

* The proportioning of the Money left, amongst the Creditors, to pay the debts seems to be fair, but how Sir John's part should be justly worth three the best I do not understand.

wherefore such money as is beleft, it must be ¹ divided to every man a part after the quantity, which division is not yet made, but when it is made he hath promised me, that your part shall be worth ¹ three the best, &c.

Item, as for I. of Barney's Horse, who so hath least need to him, he shall cost him 20 marks (13l. 6s. 8d.) not a penny less.

Ye ¹ sent me word of the marriage of my Lady Jane; one marriage for another one, Norfe and Bedford were ² asked in the church on Sunday last past.

As for my Sister Anne, my Mother will not remove from W. Yelverton for Bedyngfeld, for she hath communed farther in that matter, since ye were in this country, as it appeareth in her Letter, that she sendeth you by Thyrston.

Tidings here, my Lady of Norfolk is with child she weneth [*thinketh*] herself, and so do all the women about her, insomuch she waits the quickening within these six weeks at the farthest. Also W. Gernay weneth that Heydon is sure of Saxthorp, and that Lady Boleyn, of Guyton.

John Osbern adviseth you to take breath for the Wood sale at Sporle, for he hath cast it, that it is worth as good as nine score pounds. Beware of Montayn, for he may not pay you so much money with his ease.

I pray you recommend me to Sir John Parre with all my service, and tell him by my truth, I longed never forer to see my Lady than I do to see his Mastership; and I pray God that he arise never a morning from my Lady his wife, without

² Banns of marriage we here find were published at this time in the Church.

it be ageyn hyr wyll tyll fyche tyme as he bryng hyr to Our Lady of Walfygh'm.

Also I prey yow to recomand me in my most humbyll wyfe onto y^e good Lordshepe of y^e most corteys gentylest wyfest kyndeft most compenabyll freeft largeft most bowntefous knyght my Lord the Erle of ³ Arran whych hathe maryed the Kyngs Sufty of Scotland. Herto he is on' the lyghtest delynerft best spokyn fayrest Archer devowghtest most p'fyghte and trewest to hys Lady of all the Knyghtys that ever I was aqweyntyd w^t so wold God my Lady lyekyd me as well as I do hys person and most knyghtly condycyons w^t whom I prey yow to be aqweyntyd as yow femyth best he is lodgyd at y^e George in Lombard street, he hath a book of my Syft^r. Annys of y^e Sege of Thebes when he hathe doon with it he p'mysyd to delyver it yow I prey lete Portland bryng y^e book hom w^t hym. Portland is loggyd at y^e George in Lombard street also.

And thys I promyse yow ye schall not be so longe ayen w^t ought a byll fro me as ye have ben thow I shold wryght how ofte the wynd changyth for I se be yo^r wryghtyng ye can be

wrothe and ye wyll ^{croffe it} ^{..+ ..+ ..+} ^{..+ ..+ ..+} for lytyll. Wretyn the v day of June.

⁵ J. Paston.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. x. N^o 1.

³ Thomas Boyd, Earl of Arran, in 1466, married Mary, Daughter of James II. and Sister of James the III. Kings of Scotland. He was appointed Regent, but becoming unpopular was banished, and died in exile before 1474.

it be against her will, till such time as he bring her to Our Lady of Walsingham.

Also I pray you to recommend me in my most humble wise unto the good Lordship of the most courteous, gentlest, wisest, kindest, most companionable, freest, largest, and most bounteous Knight, my Lord the Earl of Arran, which hath married the King's Sister of Scotland. Hereto he is one the lightest, delyverst [*nimblest*], best spoken, fairest archer; devoutest, most perfect, and truest to his Lady of all the Knights that ever I was acquainted with; so would God, my Lady liked me as well as I do his person and most knightly conditions, with whom I pray you to be acquainted, as (*to*) you seemeth best; he is lodged at the George in Lombard-street. He hath a book of my Sister Anne's of the Siege of Thebes, when he hath done with it, he promised to deliver it you. I pray you let Portland bring the book home with him. Portland is lodged at the George in Lombard-street also.

And this I promise you, ye shall not be so long again without a bill from me, as ye have been, though I should write how oft the wind changeth, for I see by your writing ye can be

cross it
•+ •+ •+
wrath and ye will ⁴ for little.
•+ •+ •+

Written the 5th day of June.

⁵ JOHN PASTON.

5th of June, 1472, 12 E. IV.
(Or perhaps it may be 5th
of June, 1470, 10 E. IV.
see Letter XXXIV.)

⁴ These two words are crossed as here represented, and over them is written, "crosse it."

⁵ Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 12.

L E T T E R M A L D O N.

To my ryght trusty ffrend John Carenton Baylye of Maldon.

RYGH T trusty frend I comand me to yow preyīg yow to call to yo^r mynd that lyek as ye and I comonyd of it were necessary for my Lady and you all hyr Serūnts and teñnts to have thys p'lement as for ōn of the Burgeys of the towne of Maldon fyche a man of worthepe and of wytt as wer towardys my feyd Lady and also fyche on as is in favor of the Kyng and of the Lords of hys confayll nyghe abought hys p'sone. Sertyfyīg yow that my seid Lady for hyr parte and fyche as be of hyr confayll be most agreeabyll that bothe ye and all fyche as be hyr fermors and teñntys and wellwyllers shold geve your voyse to a worchepfull knyght and on' of my Lady's confayll S^r. John Paston whyche standys gretly in favore w^t my Lord Chamberleyn and what my feyd Lord Chamberleyn may do w^t the Kyng and w^t all the Lordys of Ingland

I trowe

This Letter exhibits to us almost a Picture of modern manners, in the terms and address used in recommending a Member of Parliament to the Corporation of Maldon. The Agent of the great Lady writes to the Bailiff of the Borough, and to the Tenants, &c. to use their influence with the Electors in favour of Sir John Paston, a Friend of the Lady's, in the good graces of the King, and in the interest of the Council, and the Lord Chamberlain.

It appears too, that a Seat in Parliament was then an object of pursuit, and not a burden laid upon the Representative, as we are informed by some of our Historians; and

L E T T E R XLVII.

To my right trusty Friend John Carenton, Bailiff of Maldon.

RIGHT Trusty Friend, I commend me to you, praying you to call to your mind, that like as ye and I communed of, it were necessary for my Lady and you all, her Servants, and Tenants, to have this Parliament as for one of the Burgeffes of the Town of Maldon, such a man of worship and of wit as were towards my said Lady; and also such one as is in favour of the King, and of the Lords of his Council nigh about his person; certifying you, that my said Lady for her part, and such as be of her council be most agreeable, that both ye, and all such as be her Farmers, and Tenants, and Well-willers, should give your voice to a worshipful Knight, and one of my Lady's Council, Sir John Paston; which stands greatly in favour with my Lord Chamberlain; and what my said Lord Chamberlain may do with the King and with all the Lords of

and we are apt to suppose that there is now more interest made and more bribery used in obtaining a seat in the House of Commons than there was 300 years ago; the desire of parliamentary Interest, we here see, was much the same.—Engines were set at work, the Patronage of the Great was held out, and promises were made even as at this day; and though the Friends of a Candidate would not now come from divers parts of the County to Norwich, (*see the next Letter*) break their fasts, and return home again at the expence of the Candidate, for a bill amounting to *nine shillings and one penny halfpenny*, yet the motive is still the same, the Manners, Customs, and Expences of the times forming the only difference.

I trowe it be not unknowyn to you most of eny on man alyve. Wherefor by the meenys of the seyde Sr. John Paston to my seyde Lord Chamberleyn bothe my Lady and ye of the towne kowd not have a meeter man to be for yow in the perlement to have yor needys sped at all seasons. Wherfor I prey yow labor all fyche as be my Ladys serūntts teñnts and wellwyllers to geve ther voyseys to the seyde Sr. John Paston and that ye fayle not to sped my Ladys intent in thys mater as ye entend to do hyr as gret a plesur as if ye gave hyr an C^{li}. And God have yow in hys kepīg Wretyn at Fysheley the xx day of Septēbyr.

ⁱ J. Arblaster.

I prey yow be redy w^t all the Acōptanttys belongyng to my Lady at the ferthest wⁱⁿ viij dayes next aftyr Perdon Sonday for then I shall be w^t yow w^t Gods Grace who have yow in keepyng.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. x. N^o 1.

N. B. Under the Direction, and
in a similar hand is written,
A^o. E. iiijth xijth.

ⁱ James Arblaster, Esquire, a Gentleman of Fortune in the County of Norfolk.
Pl. v. N^o 21.

100.

England, I trow it be not unknown to you most of any one man alive. Wherefore, by the means of the said Sir John Paston to my said Lord Chamberlain, both my Lady and ye of the town could not have a meeter [*properer*] man to be for you in the Parliament, to have your needs sped [*interests forwarded*] at all seasons. Wherefore I pray you labour all such as be my Lady's Servants, Tenants, and Wellwillers, to give their voices to the said Sir John Paston, and that ye fail not to speed my Lady's intent in this matter, as ye intend to do her as great a pleasure, as if ye gave her an 100l. And God have you in his keeping. Written at Fithly, the 20th day of September.

¹ JAMES ARBLASTER.

I pray you be ready with all the Accounts belonging to my Lady, at the farthest within eight days next after Pardon Sunday, for then I shall be with you with God's Grace, who have you in keeping.

Fithly,

Sunday, 20th of September,

1472, 12 E. IV.

LETTER XLIII.

To my ryght worchepfull Brodyr Sr. John Paston knyght.

RYGH^T worchepfull Sr. I recomand me to yow letyng yow wet y^t yo^r desyer as for the Knyghts of the ¹ Shyer was an ipoffoybyl to be browght abowght ffor my Lord of ² Norff and my Lord of ³ Suff wer agreid i mor then a fortnyght go to have Sr. Rob^t Wyngfeld and Sr. Rychard Harcort and that knew I not tyll it was fryday last past I had sent or I rod to Framlyn^h'm to warne as many of yo^r frends to be at Norwyche as thys monday to serve yo^r entent as I koud, but when I cam to Framlyn^h'm and knew the apo^ytmēt that was taken for the ij Knyghts I sent warnyng ayen to as many I myght to tery at hom and yet ther cam to Norwyche thys day as many as ther costs dreave to ixs. id. ob. payid and reknyd by Pekok and R. Capron and yet they dyd but brak ther fest and depertyd And I thankyd hem in yo^r name and told them that ye wold have noo voyse as thys day for ye supposyd not to be in Ingland when the perlement shold be And so they cam not at the sherhous for if they had it was thought by fyche as be y^r frends her that yo^r adu^sfarys wold have reportyd y^t ye had mad

¹ For the County of Norfolk.

² John Mowbray.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

To my right worshipful Brother Sir John Paston, Knight.

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that your desire, as for the Knights of the ^r Shire, was an impossible (*thing*) to be brought about; for my Lord of [•] Norfolk and my Lord of ³ Suffolk, were agreed, more than a fortnight ago, to have Sir Robert Wyngfield, and Sir Richard Harcourt, and that knew I not till Friday last past. I had sent, ere I went to Framlingham, to warn as many of your friends, to be at Norwich, as this Monday, to serve your intent, as I could; but when I came to Framlingham, and knew the appointment that was taken for the two Knights, I sent warning again to as many as I might, to tarry at home; and yet there came to Norwich this day as many as their costs drew to 9s. 1d. $\frac{1}{2}$. paid and reckoned by Peacock and R. Capron; and yet they did but break their fasts and departed; and I thanked them in your name, and told them that ye would have no voice as this day, for ye supposed not to be in England when the Parliament should be; and so they came not at the Shire-house, for if they had, it was thought by such as be your friends here, that your Adversaries would have reported, that ye had made labour

³ John de la Pole.

labor to have ben on' and y^t ye koud not bryñg yo^r p'pose abowght.

I sent to Yermowthe and they have p'mysyd also to Doctor Aleyn and John Ruffe to be mor then iij wekys goo.

Jamys Arblast' hathe wretyn a lett' to the bayle of Maldon in Effex to have yow a Bergeys ther howe Iwde shall sped let hym tell yow when ye spek to gedyr.

Syr I have ben twyis at Framlȳgh'm fythe yo^r dep'tyng but now the last tyme the ⁴ Confayll was ther, I fye yow lettyr whyche was bettyr then well endyghtyd R C. was not at Framlȳgh'm when the Confayll was ther but I took myn owne avyse and delyu'erd it to the confayll w^t a p'pocysion ther w^t as well as I kowd spek it, and my wordys wer well takyn but yo^r lett a thousand fold bettyr when they had red it they shewyd it to my ⁵ Lady aftyr that my Lady had sen it I spok w^t my Lady offrȳg to my Lord and her your seruyse and besyd y^t ye to do my Lord a ⁶ plesur and hyr a bettyr so as ye myght depert w^t ought eny some specyfyid. She wold not tell in that mater but remytted me ayen to the confayll for she seyde and she speke in it tyll my Lord and the confayll wer agreed they wold ley the wyght of all the mater on hyr whyche shold be reportyd to hyr shame but thys she promyseid to be helpyng so it wer fyrst mevyd by the confayll, then I went to the confayll and offyrd befor them yo^r feryse to my Lord and to do hym a plesure

⁴ We have here a curious description of the Council of a great man, and find it composed of Gentlemen of family and fortune. Matters respecting the property of their Lord come before them, they debate upon the subject, and deliver their opinion; but if that opinion differed from that of the great man, we find he took the liberty of adopting his own.

to have been one, and that ye could not bring your purpose about.

I sent to Yarmouth, and they have promised also to Doctor Aleyn and John Ruffe to be (*Burgeses*) more than three weeks ago.

James Arblaster hath written a Letter to the Bailiff of Maldon, in Essex, to have you a Burges there; how Jude shall speed, let him tell you, when ye speak together.

Sir, I have been twice at Framlingham, since your departing, but now the last time the ⁴ Council was there; I saw your Letter which was better than well endited. R. C. was not at Framlingham when the Council was there, but I took my own advice, and delivered it to the Council with a proposition therewith, as well as I could speak it; and my words were well taken, but your Letter a thousand fold better; when they had read it, they shewed it to my ⁵ Lady; after that my Lady had seen it, I spoke with my Lady, offering to my Lord and her your service, and besides that, ye to do my Lord a ⁶ pleasure and her a better, so as ye might depart without any sum specified; she would not tell in that matter, but remitted me again to the Council, for she said, and she spoke in it, till my Lord and the Council were agreed, they would lay the weight of all the matter on her, which should be reported to her shame; but this she promised to be helping, so it were first moved by the Council; then I went to the Council, and offered before them your service to my Lord, and to do him a pleasure, for the

⁵ Elizabeth, Duchess of Norfolk.

⁶ Make him a present.

for y^e haveīg ayen of yo^r place and londys in Cast' xlⁱ not
spekȳg of yo^r stuff nor thyng ellys, so they answerd me yo^r
offyr was more then resonabyll and if the mater wer thers
they seyde they wyft what conscyence wold dryve hem to they
seyde they wold meve my Lord w^t it and so they dyd, but then
the tempest aros and he gave hem syche an answer that non of
hem all wold tell it me, but when I axid an answer of hem they
seyde and som Lordys or gretter men mevyd my Lord w^t it the

(kepe consaile)

mater wer your and w^t thys answer I depertyd but Sr. W.
Brandon Sothewell Tymp'ley Herry Wentworthe, W. Gornay
and all other of consayll undyrstand that ye have wronge info-
myche that they mevyd me that ye shold take a recompence
of other lond to the valew but they wold not avowe the
offyr for I anserd hem that if y^e had ryght they wold have
ofred no recompence dyscovyr not thys but in my reason and
my Lord ' Chamb'leyn wold send my Lady a Lett' w^t some
p'uy tokyn betwyx theym and allso to meve my Lord of Norff'
when he comyth to the p'lement ferteynly Cast' is yours.

If ye mysse to be Burgeys of Maldon and my Lord Chamb'-
leyn wyll ye may be in a nother plase ther be a dofeyn townys
in Ingland that chesse no bergeys whyche ought to do and ye
may be set in for on' of those townys and ye be frendyd.
Also in no wyse forget not in all hast to get some goodly ryng
pryse of xx^s or som praty flowyr of the same pryse and not undyr
to geve to Jane Rodon for she hathe ben the most specyall
laborer in yo^r mater and hathe promysyd hyr good wyll foorth

¹ William, Lord Hastings.

having again of your Place, and Lands in Caister 40/. not speaking of your Stuff nor thing else; so they answered me your offer was more than reasonable, and if the matter were theirs, they said, they wist [*knew*] what Conscience would drive them to, they said, they would move my Lord with it, and so they did; but then the Tempest arose, and he gave them such an answer, that none of them all would tell it me; but when I asked an answer of them they said; “And [*if*] some “ Lords or greater men moved my Lord with it, the matter were “ yours”; (*keep counsel*) and with this answer I departed, but Sir W. Brandon, Southwell, Tymperley, Harry Wentworth, W. Gorney, and all other of council understand that ye have wrong; in so much that they moved me that ye should take a recompence of other land to the value, but they would not avow the offer; for I answered them, if they had right they would have offered no recompence; discover not this, but in my reason, and [*if*] my Lord ' Chamberlain would send my Lady a Letter with some privy token between them, and also to move my Lord of Norfolk when he cometh to the Parliament, certainly Caister is yours.

If ye miss to be Burgefs of Maldon, and my Lord Chamberlain will, ye may be in another place; there be a dozen Towns in England that choose no Burgefs, which ought to do it, ye may be set in for one of those Towns and [*if*] ye be friended. Also in any wise forget not in all haste to get some goodly ring (*at the*) price of 20s. or some pretty Flower of the same price, and not under, to give to Jane Rodon; for she hath been the most special labourer in your matter, and hath promised her

and she doeth all w^t hyr mastresse And my Lord Chamberleyn wyll he may cause my Lord of Norff^e to com up soner to the p^rlement then he shold do and then he may apoynt wth hym for yow or y^e ² ferm corn be gadryd. I profyrd but xl^{li} and if my Lord Chamberleyn profyr my Lady the remeñnt I can thynk it shall be taken my Lady must have somewhat to bye hyr ⁹ Kovercheff besyd my Lord a Soper y^t I payd for wher all the confayll was at Framlygh^m ijs iij^d and my costs at Framlygh^m twyis lyīg ther by viij dayis w^t ix^s i^d ob. for costs of y^e contre at Norwyche drawyth abowght xxs I trowe more by our Lady if it be lesse stand to your harmys and sic remanet v^{li} xiijs iij^d.

I axe no more gods of you for all the servyse y^t I shall do yow whyll the world standyth but a ¹⁰ Gofshawke if eny of my Lord Chamb^leyns men or yours goo to Kaleyys or if eny be to get in London that is a mewyd hawk for she may make yow sporte when ye com into Ingland a doseyne yer hens, and to call upon yow owyrly nyghtly dayly dyner soper for thys hawk I pray noo more but my brodyr E. J. Pampyng Thyrston I. Myryel W. Pytte T. Plattying Jwde lityll Jak Mastyr Boton^r and W. Wood to boote to whyche persons I prey yow to comand me and if all thes lyst to spek to yow of thys mater when Sr. George Browne W. Knyvett R. Hyd or eny folk of worchepp

⁸ Corn paid in part of Rent.

⁹ A Head Drefs, or Handkerchief.

¹⁰ From the anxiety here expressed for an Hawk, we may judge of the attention which was paid to the Diverfion of Hawking.

Latham,

good will forth [*in future*]; and she doth all with her Mistrefs. And [*if*] my Lord Chamberlain will, he may cause my Lord of Norfolk to come up sooner to the Parliament than he should do, and then he may appoint with him for you, ere the ⁸ farm corn be gathered. I proffered but 40*l.* and if my Lord Chamberlain proffer my Lady the remanent, I can think it shall be taken; my Lady must have somewhat to buy her a ⁹ Coverchief besides my Lord.

A supper that I paid for, where all the Council was at Framlingham 2*s.* 3*d.* and my costs at Framlingham twice lying there by eight days, with 9*s.* 1*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$. for costs of the Country at Norwich draweth about 20*s.* I trow more. By our Lady if it be less stand to your harms, and sic remanet 5*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

I ask no more good of you for all the service, that I shall do you while the world standeth, but a ¹⁰ Gofs Hawk, if any of my Lord Chamberlain's men or yours go to Calais, or if any be to get in London, that is, a mewed Hawk, for she may make you sport when ye come into England a dozen years hence; and to call upon you hourly, nightly, daily, dinner, supper, for this Hawk, I pray no more but my brother (*Edmund*), J. Pampyng, Thyrston, J. Myryel, W. Pitt, T. Platting, Jude, little Jack, Master Botoner and W. Wood to boot, to which Persons I pray you to commend me, and if all these list [*be disposed*] to speak to you of this matter when Sir George Browne, W. Knyvet, R. Hyde,

Latham, in his book of Falconry, says, that a Goshawk is the first and most esteemed kind of Hawk; that a Sore Hawk is from the first taking of her from the eiry, till she hath mewed her feathers.

The Tassel, or Tiercel, is the male of the Goshawk, so called, because it is a tierce or third less than the female: it appears here, that a Groffer, or Dealer in foreign Fruits, &c. fold Hawks.

worchepp and of my aqweyntanſe be in yor compeny ſo y^t they may helpe forthe for all is lytyll i nowe and ye be not u^y well wyll̄g, I ſhall ſo p[']uey for hem and ever ye com to Norwyche and they w[']yow that they ſhall have as deynte vytayll and as gret ¹¹plente therof for 1^d as they ſhall have of the treſorer of Caleys for xv^d. And ye p[']aventure a Pye of Wymondh'm to boote, now thynk on me good Lord for if I have not an Hawke I ſhall wax fatt for default of labor and ded for default of company by my trowthe no more but I pray God ſend you all your deſyrs and me my mwyd Goſhawk in haſt or rather y^{en} fayle a Sowyr Hawke ther is a Groſſer dwell̄g ryght ou[']ayenſt the well w^t ij boketts a lytyll fro Seynt Elens hathe evyr Hawkys to ſell.

Wretyn at Norwyche the xxj day of September A^o. E. iiijth xij^o.

¹² J. P.

Rather then faylle a Tarſell provyd wyll occupy the tyme tyll I com to Caleys.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$,

Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N^o 9.

¹² The Attendance on the wars in France, and in our Garrisons there, muſt have been very expenſive by this account of the difference in the price of Proviſions at Calais and at Norwich.

L C C-

or any folk of worship and of my acquaintance be in your company, so that they may help forth, (for all is little enough, and [*if*] ye be not very well willing) I shall so purvey for them, and ever ye come to Norwich, and they with you, that they shall have as dainty victuals and as great ¹¹ plenty thereof for 1*d.* as they shall have of the Treasurer of Calais for 15*d.* and ye peradventure, a Pye of Wymondham to boot; now think on me good Lord, for if I have not an Hawk, I shall wax fat for default of labour, and dead for default of company by my truth. No more but I pray God fend you all your desires, and me my mewed Goss Hawk in haste, or rather than fail, a Soar Hawk, there is a Groffer dwelling right over against the Well with two Buckets a little from Saint Helen's hath ever Hawks to sell.

Written at Norwich the 21st day of September, in the 12th year of Ed. IV.

¹² JOHN PASTON.

Rather then fail a Tarffel proved will occupy the time till I come to Calais.

Norwich, Monday, 21st of September,
1472, 12 E. IV.

¹² Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 12.

L E T.

L E T T E R XLIII.

A Johan Paston esquier soit done.

WORSHYPPFULL and weell belovyd brother I recomand me to yow letyng yow weet y^t I sente yow a Lett^r and a Rynge w^t a Dyamond in whyche Lett^r ye myght well conceyve, what I wold ye scholde do w^t y^e fame rynge, w^t menye other tydyngs and thyngs whyche I prayed yowe to have doon for me, whyche Lett^r ¹ Boton^r had the beryng off, it is so nowe y^t I undrestond that he is owther deed or ellys harde eskapyd, wheroff I am ryght hevye, and am not ferteyn whethyr the feyd Lett^r and rynge come to yowr handys or nott. I wolde nott that lett^r wer feyn w^t some folkys, wherffor I praye yow take good heede hoghe that lett^r comythe to yowr handys hooll or brokyn and in especiall I praye yow gete it iff ye have it nott.

Also I praye yow feele my Lady off Norfolks dysposicōn to me wards and whethyr she toke any dysplefur at my langage or mokkyd or dysdeyned my words whyche I hadd to hyr at Yarmothe be twyen the place wher I ffyrst mett w^t hyr and hyr lodgyng, ffor my Lady Brandon and ² St. Will^m also

This Letter contains but little information, it is however given as containing a specimen of the free and easy conversation of the time, and shows the very intimate acquaintance that subsisted between Sir J. Paston and the Duchess of Norfolk.

¹ William Botoner, otherwise Worcester.

axhyd

L E T T E R XLIX.

To John Paston, Esquire, be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL and well beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I sent you a Letter and a Ring with a Diamond; in which Letter ye might well conceive, what I would ye should do with the same Ring, with many other tidings and things which I prayed you to have done for me; which Letter ¹ Botoner had the bearing of; it is so now that I understand that he is either dead, or else hard escaped; whereof I am right heavy; and am not certain whether the said Letter and Ring came to your hands or not.

I would not that Letter were seen with some folks, wherefore I pray you take good heed, how that letter cometh to your hands, whole or broken, and in especial I pray you get it, if ye have it not.

Also I pray you feel my Lady of Norfolk's disposition to me wards, and whether she took any displeasure at my language, or mocked, or disdained, my words which I had to her at Yarmouth, between the place where I first met with her, and her lodging; for my Lady Brandon and ² Sir William also

² Sir William Brandon, Knight, was Standard-bearer to the Earl of Richmond, and was slain in Bosworth Field, by Richard III. He was father to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

axhyd me what words I had had to hyr at that tyme. They feyd y^t my Lady feyde I * gaff hyr ther off, and y^t I sholde have feyde y^t my Lady was worthye to have a Lords Soon in hyr belye ffor she cowde cheryshe itt and dele warlye w^t it, in trowthe owther the same or words moche lyke I had to hyr whyche wordys I ment as I feyde, they feye to y^t I feyde she toke hyr ease, Also I scholde have feyde y^t my Ladye was off satur goode and had fydes longe and large so that I was in goode hope she sholde ber a fayr chylde, he was nott lacyd nor bracyd ine to hys peyn but y^t she left hym rome to pleye hym in, and they feye that I feyde my Lady was large and grete and that itt sholde have rome inow to goo owt att, and thus whyther my Lady mork me or theye I woote nott, I mente weell by my trowthe to hyr and to y^t she is w^t as any he y^t owythe heer best wyll in Ingelond.

Iff ye can by any meed weete whethyr my Ladye take it to dysplefur or nowt or whether she thynke I morkyd hyr or iff she wyght it but lewdnesse off my selffe I pray yow sende me worde, ffor I weet nott whethyr I maye trust thys Lady Brandon or nott.

It'm as ffor tydyngs nowe heer be but ffewe saff that as I undrestande Imbassators off Bretayn' shall come to London to morawe And men feye that the Lorde³ Ryverse and Scalys shall hastelye come hom' and men feye y^t ther is many off the fowders y^t went to hym into Bretayne been dede off the

³ Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers, &c. went to endeavour to obtain the possession of the Earls of Pembroke and Richmond, who were detained as Prisoners by the Duke of Britany.

asked me what words I had had to her at that time; they said, that my Lady said I *gave her thereof, and that I should have said, that my Lady was worthy to bear a Lord's Son, for she could cherish it, and deal warily with it.

In truth either the same, or words much like, I had to her, which words I meant as I said; they say too, that I said she took her ease. Also (*that*) I should have said, that my Lady was of Stature good, and had sides long and large, so that I was in good hope she should bear a fair child, he was not laced, nor braced in, to his pain, but that she left him room to play him in; they say, that I said my Lady was large and great, and that it should have room enough; and thus whether my Lady mock me, or they, I wot not; I meant well by my truth to her, and to that she is with, as any he that oweth her best will in England; if ye can by any mean weet, whether my Lady take it to displeasure or not, or whether she think I mocked her, or if she weet it but lewdness of myself, I pray you send me word, for I wot not whether I may trust this Lady Brandon or not.

As for tidings now, here be but few, save that, as I understand, Ambassadors of Britany shall come to London to-morrow; and men say, that the Lord³ Rivers and Scales shall hastily come home, and men say, that there is many of the Soldiers that went to him into Britany been dead of the Flux, and other

* I paid her off, or treated her with unceremonious language.

fflyxe and other ipedemye and y^t the remenant sholde come hom w^t the Lorde Skalys and som feye y^t thees Imbassators come ffor moor men and thys daye rennyth a tale y^t the Duke of 'Bretayn' sholde be ded I beleeff it nott.

I sent yow worde off an Hawke, I herde nott from yow syns I do and shall doo y^t is possible in fuche a neede.

Also I canne nott undrestand that my Lord off Norff⁴ shall come heer thys tyme, wherffor I am in a greet agonye howe is best ffor me to sue to hym ffor rehavyng off my place y^t goode Lorde weet full lytell how moche harme he doothe me and how lytell goode or worshyp it dothe hym. I praye yow sende me yowr advyce. No moor to yow at thys tyme but God have yow in hys kepyng Wretyn at London y^e iiij daye off Novembre A^o. E. iiij^{ti} xij^o. I feer me y^t idelnesse ledyth yowr reyne I praye yow rather remembre Sr. Hughe Levernoy's tyll yowr Hauke come.

John Paston, Esq.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 14.

Paper Mark,
A Demy Bull.
Pl. x. N^o 5.

⁴ Francis II. the last Duke of Britany, was born in 1435, and died in 1488.

epidemy [*epidemical diseases*,] that the remanent should come home with the Lord Scales; and some say, that these Ambassadors come for more men; and this day runneth a tale, that the Duke of
4 Britany should be dead, I believe it not.

I sent you word of a Hawk, I heard not from you since, I do and shall do that is possible in such a need.

Also I cannot understand that my Lord of Norfolk shall come here this time, wherefore I am in a great agony, how is best for me to sue to him for rehaving of my place; that good Lord weet full little how much harm he doth me, and how little good or worship it doth him. I pray you send me your advice. No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

Written at London the 4th day of November in the 12th year of Edward IVth.

I fear me that Idleness leadeth your rein; I pray you rather remember Sir Hugh Lavernoy's till your Hawk come.

5 JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Wednesday,
4th of November, 1472,
12 E. IV.

5 Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

LET-

L E T T E R L.

A John Paston Esquier soyt done.

BROTHER I comend me to yow, letyng yow weet, &c.
(The first part of this Letter treats of some money transactions of no consequence, &c.)

As for the delyu'ance off the Rynge to Mestresse Jane Rothon' I dowt nott but it shall be doon in the best wyse so y^e shall geet me a thank moor than the Rynge and I ar worthe or deserve.

And wheer ye goo to my Laydy off Norffolk and wyll be theer att the takyng off hyr Chambre I praye God spede yow and our Ladye hyr to hyr plesur w^t as easye labor to overkom' that she is abowt as evyr had any Lady or Gentyllwoman, fass' ovr Lady heer selffe and soo I hope she shall to hyr greet joye and all owres and I prey God it maye be lyke hyr in worship wytt gentylnesse and every thyng excepte the verry verry thyng.

No moor to yow at thyme but I woll sleepe an howr y^e lenger tomorrow by cawse I wrote so longe and late to nyght.

Wretyn

I should have thought that this child was Anne, if it had not been for the Memorandum of "A°. x°." (10 E. IV.) on the back of a Letter from John Paston to Sir John Paston, Knight, and numbered in this Collection XXXIV. to which I refer the Reader

The

L E T T E R L.

To John Paston, Esquire, be this given.

BROTHER I commend me to you, letting you weet, &c.
(The first part of this Letter treats of some money transactions of no consequence, &c.)

As for the deliverance of the Ring to Mistress Jane Rother, I doubt not but it shall be done in the best wise, so that ye shall get me a thank more than the Ring and I are worth or deserve.

And whereas ye go to my Lady of Norfolk, and will be there at the taking of her chamber, I pray God speed you, and Our Lady her, to her pleasure with as easy labour to overcome that she is about, as ever had any Lady or Gentlewoman, save Our Lady herself; and so I hope she shall to her great joy, and all ours; and I pray God it may be like her in worship, wit, gentleness, and every thing, except the sex.

No more to you at this time, but I will sleep an hour the longer to-morrow, because I wrote so long and late to-night.

The Child here expected therefore, whether Boy or Girl, died soon after its birth; and whether Sir John's good wishes, as to the Sex of the Child, were successful or not, must remain undetermined. Autograph, Pl. iv. N^o 10.

Written

Wretyn betwyen y^e viij and y^e xj daye off Novembre A^o.
xij^o E. iiij^{ti}.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
The Letter
P. and Quaterfoil.
Pl. XI. N^o 13.

J. P. B.

L E T T E R L J.

*To John Paston Esquyer or to Mestresse Margret Paston bys
Modre be thys Lett' delyu'yd.*

WEELL belovyd Brother, (*Here follows an account of
Letters sent to him from Calais—of farme barly in Fledge
and of olde stufte at Norwich, &c.*)

As ffor tydyngs heer ther bee but fewe fass y^t y^e ¹ Duke
off Borgoyen and my Lady bys wyffe farethe well I was w^t
them on thorysdaye last past at ² Gawnt, Peter Metteney ffa-
rethe weell and Mestresse Gretkyn bothe and Rabekyn recomend
hyr to yow she hathe ben verry seke but it hathe doon hyr
goode ffor she is ffayrer and slenderer than she was and she
cowde make me no cheer but alwey my sawse was how ffaret

These Extracts are given from the Original Letter chiefly to show the easy and familiar style used by Sir John Paston, (Pl. IV. N^o 10.) in his humorous address to his brother, when telling him of Rabekin's inquiries after him.

Maft'

Written between the 8th and the 9th day of November, in the 12th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Between the 8th and 9th of November,
1472, 12 E. IV.

L E T T E R LI.

To John Paston, Esquire, or to Mrs. Margaret Paston, his Mother, be this Letter delivered.

WELL BELOVED Brother, (*Here follows an account of Letters sent to him from Calais—of farm Barley in Flegg hundred, and of old stuff at Norwich, &c.*)

As for tidings here, there be but few, save that the ¹ Duke of Burgundy, and my Lady his wife fareth well; I was with them on Thursday last past at ² Ghent. Peter Metteney fareth well, and Mrs. Gretkin both, and Rabekyn recommend her to you, she hath been very sick, but it hath done her good, for she is fairer and slenderer than she was; and she could make me no cheer, but alway my fauce was, “how fareth Master

¹ Charles the Bold, and Margaret, Sister to Edward IV.

² Gaunt or Ghent, a City of the Austrian Netherlands.

Maſt' John yowr brother wher w^t I was wrothe and ſpake a jalous worde or too dyſdeynyng y^t ſhe ſholde care ſo moche ffor yow when y^t I was preſent.

Sende me worde to Hoxons in wrygtyng what goode y^e Byſshop ded ffor me at Framynh'm and howe my Lorde my Ladye and all the Cort or dyſpoſyd to me wards.

I here alſo ſeye y^t my Ladye and yowrs Dame Margret Veer is ded God have hyr ſowle iff I weer not forye ffor herr I trowe ye have been.

No moor to yow at thys tyme but All myghty good have yow in kepyng. Wretyn at Caleys y^e iij daye of Februarye A^o. R R. E. iiij. xij^o.

I. P. K.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{7}{2}$.

³ The Biſhop, at Framlingham, ſee Letter XXXIV.

LETTER LIII.

A ſon trescher & bon Ame Freer John de Paſton eſq^r.er.

WEELL belovyd Brother, I recomand me to yow letyng yow wete y^t at the request off Meſtreſſe Jane Haſſett and yow I have laboryd y^e knyghtys off y^e ſheer off Norff' and the knyghtys off y^e ſhyre off Suff' I underſtond ther had ben
4 made

John your Brother?" wherewith I was wrath, and spake a jealous word or two, disdaining that she should care so much for you, when I was present.

Send me word to Hoxon's in writing, what good the Bishop did for me at Framlingham, and how my Lord, my Lady, and all the Court are disposed to me wards.

I hear also say, that my Lady and yours, Dame Margaret⁴ Vere is dead, God have her soul! if I were not sorry for her, I trow ye have been.

No more to you at this time, but Almighty God have you in keeping.

Written at Calais, the 3d day of February, in the 12th year of the reign of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais, Wednesday,
3d of February, 1472, 12 E. IV.

⁴ Daughter and Heir of Sir William Stafford, and wife to Sir George Vere; their Son, John Vere, was afterwards Earl of Oxford.

L E T T E R LII.

To his dear and well beloved Brother John Paston, Esquire.

WELL BELOVED Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that at the request of Mrs. Jane Haffett and you, I have laboured both the Knights of the Shire of Norfolk, and the Knights of the Shire of Suffolk; I

made labor y^t fuche a thing shulde have ben as ye wrotte to me off but now it is fass.

Raff Blaundrehasset wer a name to styrte an hare I warrant ther shall come no fuche name in owr bokys ner in owr house, it myght p' case styrt xx^{ti} harys at onys, ware that j^d 1st perfe. I redde ther in the bille off Norff' off on John Tendall Esq' er. but I suppose it be not ment by owr Tendall and iff it be he shall not rest theer iff I maye helpe it.

As for tydyngs the werst that I herde was that my Moodre wyll not doo so moche ffor me as she put me in cōffort off.

Other tydyngs I herd sey ffor ferteyn y^t y^e Lady Fitzwat' is ded and y^t Mast' Fytzwat' shall have CCCC mrke ayer mor' than he had I am not sory therffor,

As ffor the worlde I woot nott what it menyth men seye heer as weell as ^z Hogan y^t we shall have adoo in hast I know no lyklyhod but that fuche a Rumor ther is.

Men sey the Qwyen w^t the Prynce shall come owt off Walys and kepe thys Esterne w^t the Kyng at Leycetr and som' seye nowther off them shall com ther.

It'm off beyond y^e See it is feyd y^t the Frense Kyngs host hathe kyllid the Erle off ³ Armenak and all hys myry mene som' seye undre appoyntment and som' seye they wer besegyde and gotyn by pleyn affault.

The busyness referred to, in the beginning of this Letter, is not mentioned; what is said of Blenerhasset, seems to be meant as a pun upon the name, as written *Blunder hare set*; or perhaps it may only refer to its being a founding name.

Ferthermoor

understand there had been made labour, that such a thing should have been as ye wrote to me of, but now it is safe.

Ralph Blaunderhassett were a name to start an Hare, I warrant there shall come no such name in our Books, nor in our house; it might per case start twenty Hares at once. Beware that 1d. ¹ purse. I read there in the bill of Norfolk, of one John Tendall, Esquire, but I suppose it be not meant by our Tendall; and if it be, he shall not rest there, if I may help it.

As for tidings, the worst that I heard was, that my Mother will not do so much for me as she put me in comfort of.

Other tidings, I heard say for certain, that the Lady Fitzwalter is dead, and that Master Fitzwalter shall have 400 marks (266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) a year more than he had: I am not sorry therefore.

As for the world I wot not what it meaneth, men say here, as well as ² Hogan, that we shall have ado [*a commotion*] in haste; I know no likelihood, but that such a Rumour there is. Men say, the Queen with the Prince shall come out of Wales, and keep this Easter with the King at Leicester; and some say, neither of them shall come there.

Item, of beyond the Sea, it is said, that the French King's Host hath killed the Earl of ³ Armagnac and all his merry men; some say, under appointment, and some say, they were besieged, and gotten by plain assault.

¹ It seems to mean, Beware of that covetous man; or of that poor man, which I know not.

² Hogan's Prophecy is mentioned in Letter LVI.

³ A Territory on the North-east side of Gascony, in France.

Farthermore

Ferthermoor men seye that the Frenshe Kyng is w^t hys oft
uppon the wat' off ⁴ Some a lx myle froo Caleys I leve them
wheer I ffound them.

I made yowr answer to y^e ffrends off Mestresse Jane Godnoston
accordyng to yowr Instrucions. As for me I am nott ferteyn
whether I shall to Caleys to Leysetr or come home into Norff'
but I shall hastely send yow worde, &c.

Wretyn y^e ij daye of Aprill A^o. E. iiij. xiiij^o.

10 by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Part of the Paper Mark
remaining is the bot-
tom of the Letter P.
Pl. xi. N^o 13.

⁴ A River which runs through Picardy, in France.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

LETTER LIII.

To John Paston Esq̄r at Norwych be thys d'd.

WYRSHYPFULL and well belovyd Brother, I comand me
to yow letyng yow weet y^t the Worlde femyth qweysye
heer ffor the most part that be abowt the Kyng have sende hyddr
ffor ther harneys and it seyde ffor ferteyn that y^e Duke off
Clarance makyth hym bygge in that he kan schewyng as he
wolde but dele w^t the Duke of Glowcest' but the Kyng en-
tentyth

Farthermore men say, that the French King is with his Host upon the water of 4 Somme a 60 miles from Calais; I leave them where I found them.

I made your answer to the friends of Mrs. Jane Godnoston according to your Instructions; as for me, I am not certain whether I shall to Calais, to Leicester, or come home into Norfolk, but I shall hastily send you word, &c.

Written the 2d day of April, the 13th of Edward IV.

Friday,

2d of April, 1473,
13 E. IV.

L E T T E R LIII.

To John Paston, Esquire, at Norwich, be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL and well beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet, that the World seemeth queasy [*unsettled*] here; for the most part that be about the King have sent hither for their Harness, and it (*is*) said for certain, that the Duke of Clarence maketh him big in that he can, shewing as he would but [*only*] deal with the Duke of Gloucester; but the

tentyth in eschyewyng all Inconvenyents to be as bygge as they bothe and to be a styffeler atweyn them, and som men thynke y^t undre thys ther sholde be som other thyngge entynd and som treason conspyred so what shall falle can I nott seye.

It'm it is seyde y^t yist'daye ij Passagers off Dovr wer takyn I ffer y^t iff Juddy had noon hasty passage so y^t iff he passyd nott on Sondaye or mondaye y^t he is taken and som geer off myn y^t I wolde not for xx^{li}.

I hope and p'pose to goo to Caleys warde on sondaye or mondaye or nyghe bye ffor I am nott acompanied to do any servyse heer wherffor it wer bett' ffor me to be owt off syght.

(Here follow some money transactions relative to a Doctor Pykenham, his Mother and others.)

It'm Sprynge y^t wayten on my ^r ffadre when he was in Jowel hous whom my ffadre at hys dyeng besett xl^s he cryethe evyr on me ffor it and in weye off Almes and he wolde be easyd thow it wer but xx^s or x^s wherffor he hathe wretyn to my Modr and most have an answer ageyn I wolde y^t my Moodr sende hym as thoghe she lende hym som whatt and he woll be pleasyd and ellys he can seye as shrewdely as any man in Ingelonde.

It'm

The first part of this curious Letter informs us of the unsettled state of the nation; and that the Duke of Clarence, pretending only to be getting his party together to oppose the Duke of Gloucester, was supposed to be meditating some Treason against the State.

These royal Brothers had been for some time at variance, and most probably their Disputes

the King intendeth, in eschewing all Inconvenience, to be as big as they both, and to be a Stiffler [*Stickler*] atween them; and some men think, that under this, there should be some other thing intended, and some Treason conspired; so what shall fall, can I not say.

Item, it is said that yesterday two Passagers [*Passage Boats*] of Dover were taken; I fear that if Juddy had no hasty passage, so that if he passed not on Sunday or Monday, that he is taken, and some Gear [*Goods*] of mine, that I would not for 20l.

I hope and purpose to go to Calais ward on Sunday or Monday or nigh by, for I came not accompanied to do any service here; wherefore it were better for me to be out of fight.

(Here follow some money transactions relative to a Doctor Pykenham, his Mother, and others.)

Item, Spring, that waited on my¹ father when he was in Gaol house, whom my father, at his dying beset [*bequeathed*] 40s. he cryeth ever on me for it, and in way of Alms and he would be eased, though it were but xxs. or xs. wherefore he hath written to my Mother, and must have an answer again; I would that my Mother send him, as though she lend him somewhat, and he will be pleased, and [*or*] else he can say as shrewdly as any man in England.

Disputes were heightened at this time, by the late marriage of the latter with Anne, the Widow of Prince Edward, Henry VI's Son; Daughter and Coheir of the Earl of Warwick; and Sister to the Duchefs of Clarence, whose possessions the Duke was unwilling to divide with her Sister, now his Brother's Wife.

¹ John Paston, Esquire, was imprisoned by Edward IV. in 1466.

It'm the Kynge hathe sent ffor hys ² Great Seall, som feye we shall have a newe ³ Chauncelor but som thynke y^t the Kynge dothe as he dyde at the last ffeldys he wyll have the Seall w^t hym, but thys daye Doct^r ⁴ Morton Mast' off y^e Rollys rydethe to y^e Kynge and berythe the Seafe w^t hym.

It'm I had neu' mor nede off mony than now wherffor Fastolff's v mrks and the mony off Mast' John Smythe wolde make me holl, &c.

Wretyn on Seynt Lenards daye A°. R R. E. iiij^{ti} xiiij°.

It'm. Sende me my Vestment acordyng to y^e Lett' I sent yow by Symond Dam in all hast.

⁵ J. P. B.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{3}{4}$.

² This is a proof that the King apprehended some conspiracy was going forwards.

³ Robert Stillington, Bishop of Bath and Wells, was the then Chancellor.

⁴ Dr. Morton was a man of great learning and strict loyalty; he was elected Bishop of

LETTER LIII.

To John Paston Esqer in Norff.

WYRSSHYPFULL and ryght hertyly belowyd brother, I recomande me on to yow letyng yow wete y^t on wednesdaye last past I wrote yow a lett' wheroff John Carbalde had the beryng promyttyng me y^t ye shold have it at Norwyche
thys

Item, the King hath sent for his ² Great Seal; some say, we shall have a new ³ Chancellor, but some think, that the King doth as he did at the last Fields, he will have the Seal with him, but this day Doctor ⁴ Morton, Master of the Rolls, rideth to the King, and beareth the Sease [*Seals*] with him.

Item, I had never more need of money than now, wherefore Fastolf's 5 marks, (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and the money of Master John Smythe would make me whole, &c.

Written on St. Leonard's day, in the 13th year of the reign of Edward IVth.

Item, send me my vestment, according to the Letter I sent you by Symond Dam, in all haste.

⁵ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Thursday,
15th of April, 1473,
13 E. IV.

of Ely, in 1478; and in the same year appointed Lord Chancellor;—in 1484, he was advanced to the Archiepiscopal See of Canterbury, and died in 1500.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 10.

L E T T E R LIV.

To John Paston, Esquire, in Norfolk.

WORSHIPFUL and right heartily beloved Brother, I commend me unto you, letting you weet, that on Wednesday last past I wrote you a Letter, whereof John Carbalde had the bearing, promitting [*promising*] me that ye should

S 2

have

thys daye or ellys to morowe in the mornyng, wherin I praye yowe to take a labor accordyng afftr the tenur off the same and y^t I maye have an answer at London to Hoxon iff any maffenger come as ene I maye doo ffor yow.

As ffor tydyngs ther was a truse taken at Bruffellys about the xxvj daye off Marche last past be twyn the Duke off Borgoyne and ye ffrense Kyngs Imbassators and Mast' Will'm At Clyff ffor the Kyng heer whyche is a Pese be londe and wat' tyll the ¹ ffyrst daye off Apryll nowe next comyng betweyn Fraunce and Ingelond and also y^e Dukys londes. God holde it ffor ever and grace be.

It'm the Erle of ² Oxenfford was on fat'daye at ³ Depe and is p'posyd into Skotlond w^t a xij Schyppys, I mystrust that werke.

It'm ther be in London many fflyeng talys feyng that y^r shold be a ⁴ werke and yit they wot not howe.

It'm my Lorde ⁵ Chamb'leyn fendyth now at thys tyme to Caleys y^e yonge Lorde ⁶ Sowche and Sr. Thomas Hongreffords ⁷ Dowtre and heyr and some feye y^e yonge Lady Haryngton thes be iij grett Jowelles, Caleys is a mery town they shall dwell ther I wot not whylghe.

The historic Facts mentioned in this Letter contradict the Dates of them as given by our Historians, and place in the year 1473, those which they have given as happening in the year preceding.

¹ From 26th of March, 1473, to 1st of April, 1474.

² Our Historians assert that the Earl of Oxford was taken in St. Michael's Mount, in Cornwall, in 1472, and thence conveyed to the Castle of Hammes, near Calais, where he was imprisoned during twelve years; this could not be, as he was now at Dieppe, concerting an expedition into Scotland.

have it at Norwich this day, or else to-morrow in the morning; wherein I pray you to take a labour according after the tenure of the same, and that I may have an answer at London to Hoxon, if any messenger come, as ene I may do for you.

As for tidings, there was a Truce taken at Bruffels about the 26th day of March last past, between the Duke of Burgundy and the French King's Ambassadors, and Mr. William at Clyff for the King here; which is a Peace by land and water till the ¹ first day of April now next coming, between France and England, and also the Duke's land; God hold it for ever, and [*if*] Grace be!

Item, the Earl of ² Oxford was on Saturday at ³ Dieppe, and is purposed into Scotland with a 12 Ships; I mistrust that work.

Item, there be in London many flying Tales, faying, that there should be a ⁴ work and yet they wot not how.

Item, my Lord ⁵ Chamberlain fendeth, now at this time to Calais, the young Lord ⁶ Zouch and Sir Thomas Hungerford's ⁷ Daughter and Heir, and some say, the young Lady Harrington, these be three great Jewels; Calais is a merry town, they shall dwell there I wot not whylghe [*how long*].

³ A Port Town in France, opposite to Rye, in Suffex.

⁴ This may refer to some commotions expected to be excited by the Friends of the House of Lancaster, perhaps to assist the Earl of Oxford, or it may relate to the differences between the Dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, &c.

⁵ William, Lord Hastings.

⁶ John, Lord Zouch of Harringworth; he was attainted in the first year of Henry VII.

⁷ Mary, Daughter and Heir of Sir Thomas Hungerford; she afterwards married Edward, Son and Heir to William, Lord Hastings, who in her right became Lord Hungerford, her Uncle's attainder being reversed.

No mor but I have ben and ame troblyd w^t myn over large and curteys delyng w^t my fervants and now w^t ther onkynd nesse Plattyng yowr men wolde thys daye byd me ffar well to to morow at Dou' notw^tstandyng Thryston yowr other man is ffrom me and John Myryell and W. Woode whyche promysed yow and Dawbeney God have hys fowle, at Castre y^t iff ye wolde take hym in to be ageyn w^t me y^t then he wold neu' goo ffrom me and ther uppon I have kepyd hym thys iij yer to pleye Seynt ⁸ Jorge and Robyn Hod and the Shryff off Notyngh'm and now when I wolde have good horse he is goon into Bernysdale and I w^towt a keeper.

Wretyn at Cant'burye, to Caley's warde on tewesday and happe be, uppon ⁹ Good Frydaye y^e xvj daye off Apryll A^o. E. iiij^{ti}. xiiij^o.

Now,

¹⁰ J. P. B.

It'm the most parte off the Sowdyors y^t went ou' w^t Sr. Rob^t Green have leeff and be comyn hom the hyghe weye ffull my Cariage was behynd me ij hours longer yan I lokyd afftr but I ¹¹ wyffe I wende y^t I myght have etyn my parte on

⁸ Meaning, I presume, either that he had kindly kept him when he did not want him; and now that he did want him, that he had left him; or that he had kept him to be an Actor in such Interludes.

⁹ This is the first Letter so fully dated, by which the exact time of King Edward's reign can be precisely ascertained.

By the Tables to find Easter, it appears that in 1473, the Prime being 11, and the Dominical Letter C, Easter Sunday was on the 18th of April.

No more, but I have been, and am troubled with mine over large and courteous dealing with my servants, and now with their unkindness; Platting your man would this day bid me farewell to to-morrow at Dover, notwithstanding Thryston your other man is from me, and John Myryel, and W. Woode which promised you and Dawbeney, God have his Soul, at Caister, that if ye would take him in to be again with me, that then he would never go from me; and thereupon I have kept him this three years to play ⁸ Saint George and Robin Hood, and the Sheriff of Nottingham, and now when I would have good horse, he is gone into Bernysdale and I without a Keeper.

Written at Canterbury, to Calais ward on Tuesday and [*if*] hap be, upon ⁹ Good Friday the 16th day of April, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

Your,

¹⁰ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Item, the most part of the Soldiers that went over with Sir Robert Green have leave, and be coming home the Highway full; my Carriage was behind me two hours longer than I looked after, but ¹¹ I wis I wend that I might have eaten my

Edward the IVth's Reign began the 4th of March.

The 16th of April 1473, was therefore the 13th of Edward IV. and consequently he began his reign on the 4th of March, 1460.

N. B. The Date of the New Year commenced on the 25th of March.

¹⁰ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 10.

¹¹ The sense of this latter part is not clear; perhaps he meant to say that he was so sure that his finery was lost, that he might have ventured to promise to eat his part of it on Good Friday without breaking his fast.

part

Good ffrydaye all my garees and pryde had ben goon, but all was faffe. I pray yow iff W. Mylsent go ffroo yow y^t he myght come to me to Caleys, I will have hym.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8.

Paper Mark,
A Vine Branch, and
Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. x. N^o 2.

LETTER LU.

To John Paston Esquyer in Norwiche.

RYGH^T wershypfull brother I recomand me to yow, &c.
(Then follow some orders concerning Servants, Debts, Securities, &c.)

As for tydyngs the Erle of ¹ Wylfhyr and the Lord ² Sudele be ded and it was feyd y^t Sr. W. Stanle was deed but now it is feyd naye, &c.

It'm as ffor your goyng to Seyn James I ³ beleve it but atwyen ij, &c.

I herd feye that a man was thys daye examyned and he confessed y^t he knewe greet trefor was fende to y^e Erle off

This shews us the unsettled state of the nation, and the apprehensions of the King concerning the coming of the Earl of Oxford.—The man's confession seems to be founded on good authority, as the Earl arrived in England soon after.

Oxenford

part on Good Friday all my garces [*finery*] and pride had been gone, but all was safe.

I pray you if W. Mylsent go from you, that he might come to me to Calais, I will have him.

Canterbury,

Good Friday, 16th of April,

1473, 13 E. IV.

L E T T E R LV.

To John Paston, Esquire, in Norwich.

RIGHT worshipful Brother, I recommend me to you, &c.
(*Then follow some orders concerning Servants, Debts, Securities, &c.*)

As for tidings, the Earl of ¹ Wiltshire and the Lord ² Sudley be dead, and it was said, that Sir W. Stanley was dead, but now it is said nay, &c.

Item, as for your going to Saint James's I ³ believe it but atween two, &c.

I heard say, that a man was this day examined, and he confessed, that he knew great treasure was sent to the Earl of

¹ John Stafford was created Earl of Wiltshire in 1470. He was brother to Henry, Duke of Buckingham.

² Butler, Lord Sudley.

³ This seems to signify, *I do not believe it.*

Oxenfford wheroff a m^{le} li sholde be conveyd by a ⁴ Monke off Westm' and som' feye by a Monke off Chartrehows.

It'm that the same man schulde acuse C Gentylnen in Norff' and Suff' y^t have agreyd to assyst the feyd Erle at hys comynge thyder whyche as itt is feyd sholde be w'in viij dayes afftr ⁵ Seynt Donston iff wynde and weddyr ferffe hym fflyeng tales. No mor at thys tyme but God have yow in kepyng. Wretyn at London on Seynt Donstones daye xvij daye of Maye A°. E. iiij^{ti}. xij°.

⁶ John Paston, Esq.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

⁴ We see here that the Clergy favoured the Earl of Oxford, though King Edward always endeavoured to keep them on his side.

L E T T E R L I I I.

To John Paston Esqer be thys delyveryd.

RYGH^t wyrshypfull brother I comand me to yow let-
yng yow weet y^t thys daye I was in very p'pose to
Caleys ward all redy to have goon to y^e Barge, fass I teryed
ffor a yonge man y^t I thoght to have had w^t me thyddr, on
that

Oxford, whereof a 1000*l.* should be conveyed by a 4 Monk of Westminster, and some say, by a Monk of Charterhouse.

Item, that the same man should accuse an hundred Gentlemen in Norfolk and Suffolk, that have agreed to assist the said Earl at his coming thither, which, as it is said, should be within eight days after ^s St. Dunstan, if wind and weather serve him; flying tales.

No more at this time, but God have you in keeping.
Written at London on Saint Dunstan's day, the 18th day of May, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

⁶ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
St. Dunstan's day,
Tuesday, 18th of May, 1473.
13 E. IV.

^s In the next Letter he is said to have landed in Essex on the 28th of May.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. 1v. N^o 9.

L E T T E R LVI.

To John Paston, Esquire, be this delivered.

RIGHT worshipful Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that this day I was in very purpose to Calais ward, all ready to have gone to the Barge; save I tarried for a young man, that I thought to have had with me

T 2

thither,

that was w^t Rows whyche is in the cowntre, and because I cowde not geet hym and y^t I have no mor heer w^t me butt Pampyng Edward and Jak therffor Pampyng remembryd me that at Caleys he tolde me y^t he p^posed to be w^t the Duchesse off Norff^r my Lady and yowrs and Edward is fyke and femythe nott abydyng he wolde see what shold falle off thys worlde, and so I am as he that seythe com' hyddr John my man, and as happe was yist'day Juddy went affor to Caleysward wherffor I am nowe ille p^veyd, whyche ffor owte y^t I knowe yit is lyke to kepe me heer thys ¹ Wytfontyd wherffor iff ye knowe any lykly men and ffayr condycōned and good Archers sende them to me thowe it be iiij and I wyll have them and they shall have iiij mrks by yer and my Levere.

He maye com to me hyddr to the Gott or yit to Caleys w^t a * riall iff he be wyse, whyche iff nede bee I wolde y^t Berker toke hym to come uppe w^t iff it be fuche on' as ye tryft.

It'm I suppose bothe Pytte and Kothye Plattynge shall goo ffrom me in hast, I wyll neu' cheryshe knaves foo as I have don ffor ther sakys.

It'm I praye yow sende me a newe Vestment off whyght Damaske ffor a Dekyn', whyche is among myn other geer at Norwiche, ffor he shall ther too as ye woot off I wyll make an armyng Doblett off it thow I sholde an other tyme gyff

The former part of this Letter is of little consequence, except to shew us the Attendants necessary for a Person of Sir John Paston's (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) rank; the latter hints to us the unsettled state of the government; and that the King and the Duke of Clarence were not on amicable terms.

a longe

thither, one that was with Rows which is in the country; and because I could not get him, and that I have no more here with me but Pampyng, Edward, and Jack, therefore Pampyng remembered me, that at Calais he told me, that he purposed to be with the Duchefs of Norfolk, my Lady and yours; and Edward is sick, and seemeth not abiding, he would see what shall fall of this world, and so I am as he that saith; "come
 "hither, John, my man;" And as hap was yesterday Juddy went afore to Calais ward, wherefore I am now ill purveyed; which for aught that I know yet, is like to keep me here this¹ Whitfuntide, wherefore if ye know any likely men, and fair conditioned, and good Archers, send them to me, though it be four, and I will have them, and they shall have four Marks (2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) by the year, and my Livery.

He may come to me hither to the Goat, or yet [*else*] to Calais with a * rial if he be wise, which if need be, I would that Barker took [*gave*] him to come up with, if it be such one as ye trust.

Item, I suppose both Pytte, and Kothye Plattynge shall go from me in haste: I will never cherish Knaves so as I have done, for their fakes.

Item, I pray you send me a new Vestment of white Damask for a Deacon, which is amongst mine other Geer at Norwich, for he shall thereto as ye wot of; I will make an arming

¹ Whitfunday, 6th of June, 1473.

* A Rial, a gold coin of 10*s.* value.

a longe Gown off Velvett ffor another vestment and send it in all hast to Hoxon to send me.

I hopyd to have been verry mery at Caleys thys Whytson-tyde and am weell apparayled and apoyntyd fass that thes ffolks ffayle me soo and I have mat' ther to make off Ryght excellent. Som man wolde have hastyd hym to Caleys thowe he had hadd no bett' erand and som men thynke it wysdom and profyght to be theer now weell owt off the weye.

It'm as ffor the ² Byfshop and I we bee nerr^r to a poynt than we weer, so that my part is nowe all the londes in Flegge holly, the man' off Heylesdon, Tolthorpe, and Teñts in Norwyche and Erh'm excepte Fayrechyls, but ffarweell Drayton the Devyll doytt them.

It'm large and fferr comynycācon hathe ben bytwyen Sr. John Fogge Ric Haulte ffor ther Suft' and me byffor Doctor Wyntborne and ellys wher so that I am in bett' hope than I was by Seynt ³ Lawrens that I shall have a delyu'aunce.

It'm as ffor tydyngs heer I trow ye have herde yowr part howe y^t y^e Erle off Oxenfford landyd by Seynt Ofsyes in Effexe y^e xxviij daye off Maye fass he teryed nott longe ffor iff he had the Erle of ⁴ Effexe rod to hym wardys and the Lords Denh'm and Durasse and other mor whyche by lyklyod sholde have dystruffyd hym but yit hys comyng favyd Hogan hys hed and hys Profesye is the mor belevyd ffor he seyde that thys troble sholde begyn in Maye and y^t the Kynge sholde North-

² James Goldwell, Bishop of Norwich, 1472.

³ 10th of August.

Doublet of it, though I should another time give a long Gown of velvet for another vestment; and send it in all haste to Hoxon to send me.

I hoped to have been very merry at Calais this Whitsuntide, and am well apparelled and appointed, save that these folks fail me so, and I have matter there to make of right excellent. Some man would have hasted him to Calais, though he had had no better errand, and some men think it wisdom and profit to be there now well out of the way.

Item, as for the ² Bishop and I, we be nearer to a point than we were, so that my part is now all the Lands in Flegg wholly, the Manor of Helleston, Tolthorpe, and Tenements in Norwich and Earlham, except Fairchild's; but farewell Drayton, the Devil do it them [*do them good of it*].

Item, large and fair communication hath been between Sir John Fagge and Richard Haulte for their Sister and me, before Doctor Wyntborne and elsewhere, so that I am in better hope than I was by St. ³ Lawrence that I shall have a deliverance.

Item, as for tidings here, I trow ye have heard your part, how that the Earl of Oxford landed by St. Ofyth's in Essex, the 28th day of May, save he tarried not long; for if he had, the Earl of ⁴ Essex rode to him wards, and the Lords Denham and Duras, (*Galliard de Durefort*) and other more, which by likelihood should have distressed him; but yet his coming saved Hogan his head; and his Prophecy is the more believed; for he said, that this trouble should begin in May, and that the

⁴ Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex, Lord Treasurer.

wards and that y^e Scotts sholde make us werke and hym batayle.

Men loke afftr they wot not what but men by harneys ffast the Kyngs menyall men and y^e Duke off Clarauncs ar many in thys town y^e Lord s Ryu'se com to daye mē feye to p'veye in lyke wyse.

It'm how y^t y^e Cowntesse off ⁶ Warwyk is now owt off Beweley Seyntwarye and ⁷ Sr. James Tyrell conveyth hyr Northwarde men feye by the Kynges assent wherto som men feye y^t the Duke off Clarence is not agreyd.

It'm men feye y^t the Erle off Oxenfford is abowt the Ilde off Tenett hoveryng som feye w^t grett companye and som feye w^t ffewe.

No mor but God kepe yow. Wretyn at London the iij daye off June A°. E. iiijⁱ xiiij°.

John Paston, k.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Paper Mark,
The Letter P, and Quaterfoil.
Pl. xi. N° 15.

⁵ Anthony Wideville, Earl Rivers, beheaded at Pontefract, 1483.

⁶ Anne, widow of Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick, sister and heir to Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, and mother of Isabel, the wife of George, Duke of Clarence.

L C C.

King should Northwards, and that the Scots should make us work, and him battle.

Men look after they wot not what, but men buy Harnefs fast; the King's menial men, and the Duke of Clarence's, are many in this town; the Lord ⁵ Rivers came to day, men say, to purvey in like wise.

Item, how that the Countess of ⁶ Warwick is now out of Beverley Sanctuary, and ⁷ Sir James Tyrell conveyeth her Northwards, men say, by the King's assent, whereto some men say, that the Duke of Clarence is not agreed.

Item, men say, that the Earl of Oxford is about the Isle of Thanet, hovering, some say, with great company, and some say, with few.

No more but God keep you. Written at London the 3d day of June, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Thursday, 3d of June,
1473, 13 E. IV.

⁷ If this be the Person, who was afterwards thought to be concerned in the murder of Edward V. and his Brother, the Duke of York, he must have been a Knight much longer than those who have written on this particular part of our History supposed him to have been.

L E T T E R LXXX.

A Edmond Paston Esquyer a Caleys soyt donne.

BROTHER Edmond I grete yow weell letyng yow weete y aboutt thys daye vij nyght I sende yow a Letter by Nycholas Bardeflee a fowdyer whyche is wont woute to be at * border Perauntys and also an hoseclothe off blak ffor yow. I wende y^t ye sholde have hadde itt wⁱⁿ ij dayes but I am afferde y^t he defeyved me.

It'm I lete yow weet y^t Plattynge is comen hyddr and he seythe y^t ye gaffe hym leve to ffetche hys geer and Pittys and that is hys erande hyddr and noon other, ner he thowt neu' to goo ffro me ner he wyll nott goo ffro me as he seythe, wherffor I praye yow sende me worde off hys condycōns and whyghe ye thynke y^t he sholde neu' do me worshypp.

He seythe also y^t he and Pytte weer at y^c takyng off the Est'lyngs and that he was in the Pakker and Pytte in the Crystoffre. I praye yow sende me worde howe bothe he and Pitte quytte them by the report off som' indyfferent trewe man y^t was ther iff they quytte them weell I wolde love them

Though this Letter from Sir John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) contains nothing very material, it informs us of an Engagement at Sea between some Ships of this Country, and those of the Easterlings or Inhabitants of the Eastern part of Germany.

It likewise acquaints us with some private Anecdotes of Sir John Paston as a man of gallantry.

L E T T E R LVII.

To Edmund Paston, Esquire, at Calais, be this delivered.

BROTHER Edmund, I greet you well, letting you weet, that about this day sev'night I sent you a Letter, by Nicholas Bardefley a Soldier, which is wont to be at * border [query, brother] Perauntys; and also an ¹ Hofecloth of black for you; I wend [understood] that ye should have had it within two days, but I am afraid that he deceived me.

Item, I let you weet that Plattyng is coming hither, and he faith, that ye gave him leave to fetch his Geer and Pytt's; and that is his errand hither and none other, nor he thought never to go from me, nor he will not go from me, as he faith; wherefore I pray you send me word of his conditions, and why ye think that he should never do me worship.

He faith also, that he and Pytt were at the taking of the Esterlings, and that he was in the Packer, and Pytt in the Christopher; I pray you send me word how both he and Pytt quit them, by the report of some indifferent true man that was there; if they quit [acquitted] them well, I would love them the

¹ Cloth for hofen.

* May not this sentence be thus read? is wont to be at border paravant this, i. e. is accustomed to reach the border, march or edge of Calais much sooner,—before this,—before so much time was elapsed.

the bett', wherffor the next daye afftr the fyte of thys Lett' I praye yow wryght ageyn and fende it by the next passage.

It'm I fende a lytell praty boxe herwith whyche I wolde y^t Juddy sholde delyu' to y^e woman y^t he wetyth off and praye hyr to take it to y^e man y^t she wetyth off, y^t is to feye, as moche as ye knowe all well i now but ye maye nott make yow wyse in no wyse.

It'm I praye yow fende me worde as ye wer wont to do off heer wellffar and whether I weer owt and other inne or nott and whether she shall fforfAKE Caleys as sone as ye fende me worde off or nott.

By God I wolde be w^t yow as ffayne as yowr selff and shall be in hast w^t Godds grace.

It'm as ffor my brother John I hope wⁱⁿ thys monyth to see hym in Caleys ffor by lyklyhod to morowe or ellys the next daye he takyth shyppe at Yarmothe and goothe to Seynt² James warde and he hathe wretyn to me y^t he wyll come homwarde by Caleys.

It'm I suppose y^t James Song' shall com' w^t me to Caleys y^e rather ffor yowr sake.

It'm Mestresse Elyfabett ffareth well, but as yit Song' knoweth nott so p'ffytly all y^t ye wolde weet y^t he woll nott wryght to yow off thees ij dayes tyll he knowe moor, but iff she hadde ben bolde and durst have abydyn styll at hyr Gate and spoken w^t me so God helpe me she had hadd thys fame y^t I fende

² On a Pilgrimage, I suppose, to Saint James of Compostella, in the province of Gallicia, in Spain.

better; wherefore the next day after the sight of this letter, I pray you write again, and send it by the next passage.

Item, I send a little pretty Box herewith, which I would that Juddy should deliver to the woman that he weeteth of, and pray her to take it to the man that she weeteth of; that is to say, as much as ye know all well enough, but ye may not make you wife in no wife. [*You must by no means seem to know any thing of the business in hand.*]

Item, I pray you send me word as ye were wont to do of her welfare, and whether I were out and other in or not; and whether she shall forsake Calais as soon as ye sent me word of, or not.

By God I would be with you as fain as yourself, and shall be in haste with God's grace.

Item, as for my brother John, I hope within this month to see him in Calais; for by likelihood to-morrow, or else the next day, he taketh ship at Yarmouth, and goeth to Saint² James ward; and he hath written to me that he will come homeward by Calais.

Item, I suppose that James Songer shall come with me to Calais, the rather for your sake.

Item, Mistress Elizabeth fareth well, but as yet Songer knoweth not so perfectly all that ye would weet, that he will not write to you of these two days, till he know more; but if she had been bold, and durst have abiden still at her gate, and spoken with me, so God help me, she had had this same

(box)

nowe wher ye woot off whyche ye shall see woryn heer afftr
itt is a praty ryban w^t praty ³ Agletts and goodlye.

Make yow not wyse to Juddy nowther not y^t ye wolde weet
any thyng ffor I maye sey to yowe at hys comyng ovr he
browt goodly geer reasonablye.

It'm as ffor my ⁴ byll y^t is gylt I wolde it weer taken head
too ther is on' in the town y^t can glafer weell i nowe as I
herde seye. Also ther is on comythe eu'y Markett daye ffro
Seynt Omerys to Caleys and he bryngethe Dagers and ffetchyth
also he may have it w^t hym and brynge it ageyn the next
markett daye ffor xij^d. or xvj^d. at y^c most and ellys late it be
weel oylyd and kepte tyll I come No mor', wretyn at London
y^c v daye of Jull. A^o. E. iiij^{ti} xiiij^o.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
The Letter P, and a Quaterfoil.
Pl. xi. N^o 13.

³ Pendent ornaments of metal, like Tags or Points, &c.

LCC-

(box) that I fend now, where ye wot of, which ye shall see worn hereafter, it is a pretty ribbon with pretty ² Aglets and goodly.

Make you not wise to Juddy neither not that ye would weete any thing, for I may say to you, at his coming over he brought goodly Geer reasonably.

Item, as for my ⁴ Bill that is gilt, I would it were taken heed to; there is one in the town, that can glaze [*polish*] well enough, as I heard say; also there is one cometh every market day from St. Omer's to Calais, and he bringeth Daggers and fetcheth also, he may have it with him, and bring it again the next market day for 12*d.* or 16*d.* at the most; and [*or*] else let it be well oiled and kept till I come.

No more. Written at London the 5th day of July, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Monday, 5th of July,
1473, 13 E. IV.

⁴ A warlike Instrument of Offence.

LET.

LETTER LIII.

*To my Right hertily beloved frends and felawes Sr. John of Mid-
delton and Sr. John Paston Knights.*

AFTER herty Recōmendacōn, I thank you of the gode attendance that ye yeve unto the Kings counfail at Calais and the gode and effectuelle devoires that ye putte you into assiste my Depute Sr. John Scot in alle fuche things as mowe conc'ne the saufgarde of my charge there. Leting you wite that if ther be any thing that I can and may do for you, I shal w^t right gode wil performe it to my power.

And I preye you to Recōmaunde me to my Lady ¹ Howard, my Lady ² Bourgchier, and all othr' Ladies and Gentilwomen of the faide towne. And in likewise to the Mayr' Lieuten' and felaship of the staple, my felawes the fouldēōs, and all othr' fuche as ye shal seme gode. And oure lord sende you yo^r. defirs. Writen at Notyngham the xvj day of Sep-tembr'.

Sr.

This and the Letter N^o V. Appendix, are perhaps the only Letters extant of this Nobleman, who, though he disliked King Edward's Queen, was a true and loyal Subject to the King; and continued faithful to his young Prince Edward V. for which he lost his Head in 1483. Pl. iv. N^o 7.

If we may judge from his expressions in these Letters, he was a polite Gentleman, and a kind Master.

His

L E T T E R LVIII.

To my right heartily beloved friends and fellows, Sir John of Middelton, and Sir John Paston, Knights.

AFTER hearty Recommendation, I thank you of the good attendance that ye gave unto the King's Counfel at Calais; and the good and effectual Devoirs, that ye put you in to assist my Deputy Sir John Scot, in all such things as *might* concern the safeguard of my charge there. Letting you weet, that if there be any thing that I can and may do for you, I shall with right good will perform it to (*the utmost of*) my power. And I pray you to recommend me to my Lady ¹ Howard, my Lady ² Bourghier, and all other Ladies and Gentlewomen, of the said town. And in like wise to the Mayor, Lieutenant and Fellowship of the staple; my Fellows the Soldiers, and all other such as (*to*) you shall seem good. And our Lord send you your desires. Written at Nottingham, the 16th day of September.

His remembering "his Fellows, the Soldiers," in an age when his noble rank placed him so high above the Plebeians, characterizes him as a Commander attentive to the concerns of those under him.

¹ Margaret, wife of Sir John Howard, Lord Howard, and afterwards Duke of Norfolk. She was Daughter of Sir John Chedworth, Knight, and died in 1490, 5 H. VII.

² Lady Bouchier was probably the wife of a Son of Sir John Bouchier, Lord Berners.

³ Sr. Joh Paston I p'y you to yeve credens to fuche ying as my Depute shall shew you fro me and cōforme you to y^e fame.

Y^r. Felaw,

Hastynge.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 4 $\frac{3}{4}$.

³ This last paragraph is written by Lord Hastynge himself, the former part to "the xvj day of September," by his Secretary.

LETTER III.

Mestresse Margrett Paston at Norwyche.

RYGH^T honorable and most tendr good Moodr I re-
comand me to yowe besechyng yow to have, as my tryst
is y^t I have, yowr dayly bleffing and thanke yow off yowr
good moderhood, kyndeneffe, cheer, charge and costes whyche
I had and putte yow to, att my last beyng w^t yow, whyche
God gyffe me Grace her afftr to deserve.

Please it yow to weet y^t I thyngge longe y^t I heer nott ffrom
yow or ffrom Pekok yowr Servaunt ffor the knowlege howe
he hathe doon in y^e sale off my fferme Barlye, ner whatt
is made theroff wherffor I beseche yowe if it be not answered
by that tyme y^t thys bylle comythe to yowe to hast hym and itt
hyddre

3 Sir John Paston I pray you to give credence to such things as my Deputy shall shew you from me, and conform you to the same.

Your Fellow,

HASTYNGS.

Nottingham,
16th of September, 1473,
13 E. IV.

N. B. Under the Direction of this Letter is written in a hand of that time, " & Hastyngs, A° xij," meaning, I presume, 13 E. IV.

L E T T E R LIX.

Mrs. Margaret Paston, at Norwich.

RIGHT honourable and most tender good Mother, I recommend me to you, beseeching you to have, as my trust is that I have, your daily Blessing; and thank you of your good Motherhood, kindness, cheer, charge, and costs, which I had, and put you to, at my last being with you, which God give me Grace hereafter to deserve!

Please it you to weet, that I think long that I hear not from you, or from Peacock your Servant, for the knowledge how he hath done in the sale of my farm Barley, nor what is made thereof; wherefore I beseech you, if it be not answered by that time that this bill cometh to you, to hast him and it hither-

hyddre wards ffor iff y^t had nott taryed me I deme I had been at Caleys by thys daye, ffor it is soo as men feye y^t y^e Frense Kyng w^t a gret hoste is at ¹ Amyās but iij^{xx} myle from Caleys and iff he or hys roode byffor Caleys and I nott theer I wolde be forye.

It'm men feye y^t the Erle of ² Oxenfford hathe ben constrained to sewe ffor hys pardon only off hys lyffe and hys body goodes londes w^t all y^e remenaunt at y^e Kynges wyll and soo sholde in all hafte nowe come in to y^e Kyng and fom³ men feye y^t he is goon owt off y^e Mounte men wot not to what plase and yit lefte a greet Garuyson theer weell ffornyfshyd in vytayll and all other thyng.

It'm as ffor the havynge ageyn off Caſtre I truſt to have good tydyngs theroff haſtelye.

It'm my Brother John ffarethe weell and hathe doon ryght delygentlye in my cofyn Elizabz Berneys mater wheroff haſtely I truſt he ſhall ſende hyr tydyngs y^t ſchall pleaſe hyr and as to morow he p'poſyth to take hys Jurneye to Walys warde to y^e Lorde ³ Ryverſe. No mor at thys tyme but Jeſwe have yow in hys kepyng.

Wretyn

¹ The Capital of Picardy, in France.

² John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, a ſtaunch Friend to the Houſe of Lancaſter, fled and went abroad, after the total diſcomfiture of that Party in 1471. Our Hiſtorians ſay that he returned in the ſame year, and took by ſurpriſe St. Michael's Mount, in Cornwall, where, in February 1471-2, he ſurrendered himſelf to the King's Forces.

This

ward; for if that had not tarried me, I deem I had been at Calais by this day; for it is so, as men say, that the French King with a great Host is at ¹Amiens, but threescore miles from Calais; and if he, or his, rode before Calais, and I not there, I would be sorry.

Item, men say, that the Earl of ²Oxford hath been constrained to sue for his Pardon only of his Life; and his Body, Goods, Lands, with all the remanent, at the King's Will, and so should in all haste now come in to the King; and some men say, that he is gone out of the Mount, men wot not to what place, and yet left a great Garrison there, well furnished in victual, and all other thing.

Item, as for the having again of Caister, I trust to have good tidings thereof hastily.

Item, my brother John fareth well, and hath done right diligently in my Cousin Elizabeth Berney's matter, whereof hastily I trust he shall send her tidings, that shall please her; and as to-morrow he purposeth to take his Journey to Wales ward to the Lord ³Rivers.

No more at this time, but Jesu have you in his keeping.

This and a previous Letter ascertain these Events to have happened in 1473, being the 13th of Edward IV.

After his surrender, his Estates were confiscated, his Countess left destitute, and he was conveyed to the Castle of Hammes, near Calais, in Picardy, where he remained a Prisoner many years, namely, till 1484, 2 R. III. when he escaped, and joined the Earl of Richmond.

³ Anthony Widevile, Earl Rivers.

Written.

Wretyn at London the xx daye off Feu'er A°. E. iiijth. xiiij^o.

Yowr Sone,

⁴ J. Paston, R.

8 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 7.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

LETTER II.

To hys Brodyr Sr. John Paston be thys Letter delyu'ed.

SIR I recomaunde me to yow letynge yow wete that,
(*Here follows some Account relative to a Grant from the Crown, &c.*)

As for my Lord ¹ Treferer he was not w^t the Kynge of all the
² Counsell tyme y^e whyche was endyd on the iiij^{de} day of Marche.
And theder came my Lorde of ³ Northethomyrland the fyrste
day of Marche and dep'tyd the even afore y^e makyng of thys
Lett'. And hath endentyd w^t the Kynge for the kepyng

We have in this Letter a pleasing account of the intended excursion of the King into divers Counties, in 1474; the motive of which most probably was to raise, more easily by his presence and cheerful address, Benevolences upon his Subjects towards the Expences of his war with France.

We are here informed likewise that the County of Norfolk had been highly spoken of to the King, not only for the Riches and Hospitality of its Inhabitants, but for the beauty and agreeable behaviour of its women; a reason sufficient for so long a stay amongst them, as seemed intended to be made by an amorous and handsome Monarch.

Written at London the 20th day of February, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

Your Son,

⁴ J. PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 20th of February,
1473, 13 E. IV.

L E T T E R LX.

To his Brother Sir John Paston, Knight, be this Letter delivered.

SIR, I recommend me unto you, letting you weet that,
(*Here follows some Account relative to a Grant from the Crown, &c.*)

As for my Lord ¹ Treasurer he was not with the King of all the ² council time, the which was ended on the 3d day of March. And thither came my Lord of ³ Northumberland, the first day of March, and departed the even afore the making of this Letter; and hath endented with the King for the keeping out of

¹ William Grey, Bishop of Ely.

² The fitting of Parliament.

³ Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland; this Contract was entered into by him most probably as Warden of the Marches; a place of trust, honour, and profit.

This Nobleman was cruelly murdered by a Mob, in Yorkshire, when he was there levying a public Tax in 1489.

the

owt of the Schottys and warrynge on them and schall have large money I can not telle y^e some for certeyn.

Also ther is an Rover takyn at Brystowe on Cowper as I wene and he is lyke to be hanged and he confessythe more of hys felawis. Also Edward Heestowe of Dover is apechyd of trefon of many straunge poynts, and hys accuser and he were bothe afore the Kynge and then they were takyn apert And he hymselfe cōfessyd it that hys accusere accusyd hym of and many other thyngs more than he was accusyd of And he had many Lords and Gentylnen to aunswere for hys trowthe and his demenyng afore tyme for as I hard sey bothe the Kynge in a maner nor non of the tother Lords nor Gentylnen belevyd not hys accuser tyl y^t he confessyd it hym selfe and so he is in the Towre and ⁴ lyke to be dede.

As for the Kyng's comynge into the contre. On Monday come fortenyght he well lye at the Abbey of Strattefforde and so to Chelmsford, yan to Syr Thomas Mongehombrey, yan to Hevenyngh'm than to Colchestyr yan to Ipswyche yan to Bery yan to Dame Anne Wyngfelds and soo to Norwych and there woll he be on ' Palme sonday euyn and so tary there all ⁶ Ester and yan to ⁷ Walsyngh'm. Wherefore ye had nede to warne Wyll'm Gogyne and hys felaws to p'uey them of wyne I now for eu'y man berythe me on hande that y^e towne schalbe dronkyn drye as Yorke was when the Kynge was ther'. Syr Mayst' Sampson recomaunde hym on to yow and he hathe

⁴ This expression seems to insinuate that he would be executed privately in the Tower.

⁵ 3d of April, 1474.

the Scots, and warring on them; and (*be*) shall have large money, I cannot tell the Sum for certain.

Also there is a Rover taken at Bristol, one Cowper, as I ween [*think*], and he is like to be hanged, and he confesseth more of his Fellows. Also Edward Heestowe of Dover is apeached [*impeached*] of Treason of many strange points; and his accuser and he were both afore the King, and then they were taken apart; and he himself confessed it, that his accuser accused him of, and many other things more than he was accused of.

And he had many Lords and Gentlemen to answer for his truth, and his demeaning afore time, for as I heard say, both the King in a manner, nor none of the other Lords, nor Gentlemen, believed not his accuser, till that he confessed it himself, and so he is in the Tower, and 4 like to be dead.

As for the King's coming into the Country; on Monday come fortnight he will lie at the Abbey of Stratford, and so to Chelmsford; then to Sir Thomas Montgomery's; then to Heveningham; then to Colchester; then to Ipswich; then to Bury; then to Dame Anne Wingfield's, and so to Norwich; and there will he be on 5 Palm Sunday Even; and so tarry there all 6 Easter, and then to 7 Walsingham; wherefore ye had need to warn William Gogney and his Fellows to purvey them of wine enough, for every man beareth me in hand, that the Town shall be drank dry as York was, when the King was there.

Sir, Master Sampson recommend him unto you, and he hath

⁶ 10th of April, 1474.

⁷ I suppose, to pay his Devotions to the Image of our Lady there.

fende yow a rynge be Edmonde Dorman and besydys that he requeryd me to wryte on to yow y^t it were best for yow to p'vey yow of some Gentyl meny thynges ageyns the Kyngs comyng for fuere he well brynge yow Gefts I now and therfore p'uey yow y^aftyr. Also he fendythe yow worde that it is my Lords mende y^t my Syft' w^t all other godely folkys y^r abowt scholde acompeny w^t Dame ⁸ Elſebethe Calthrop becauſe there is noo grete Lady ther abowte ageyns the Kyngs comynge for my Lorde hathe made grete boſte of the fayre and goode Gentylwomen' of y^e cōtre and ſo the Kynge ſeyd he wolde ſee them ſure.

Syr my Lorde hathe ſente on to y^e moſt p'te of the Gentyl men of Eſſex to wayte upon hym at Chelmnysford where as he entendythe to mete w^t the Kynge and y^t they be well apoyntyd y^t y^e Lankeſchere men may ſee y^t ther be Gentylmen of as grete ſobeſtaunce y^t y^ei be able to bye alle Lankeſcher' men thynke that ye amonge yow wol doo y^e ſame. Yo^r Contre is gretely boſtyd of and alſo the Inabytors of the ſame. I beſeche you to remembr my hors that ye p'mifyd me.

God kepe yow. Wretyn at Schene in haſte y^e vij day of Marche w^t the hande of yo^r brodyr.

9 W^m Paſſon.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8.

Paper Mark,
A Unicorn.
Pl. xi. N^o 14.

2 Widow of Sir John Calthorp, and Daughte of Roger Wentworth, Eſquire.

11 C T.

sent you a Ring by Edmond Dorman; and besides that, he required me to write unto you, that it were best for you to purvey you of some Gentlemeny [*Gentlemanlike*] Things against the King's coming, for sure he will bring you Guests enough, and therefore purvey you thereafter. Also, he sendeth you word, that it is my Lord's mind, that my Sister, with all other goodly Folks there about, should accompany with Dame ⁸ Elizabeth Calthrop, because there is no great Lady there about, against the King's coming; for my Lord hath made great boast of the fair and good Gentlewomen of the Country; and so the King said, he would see them sure.

Sir, my Lord hath sent unto the most part of the Gentlemen of Essex to wait upon him at Chelmsford, whereas he intendeth, to meet with the King, and that they be well appointed, that the Lancashire men may see, that there be Gentlemen of so great substance that they be able to buy all Lancashire. Men think that ye among you will do the same.

Your Country is greatly boasted of, also the Inhabitants of the same. I beseech you to remember my horse that you promised me. God keep you.

Written at Sheene in haste, the 7th day of March, with the hand of your Brother.

WILLIAM PASTON.

Sheen,

Monday, 7th of March,

1473, 14 E. IV.

⁹ Autograph. Pl. v. N^o 13.

L E T T E R LXX.

*To John Paston Esquier at Norwyche, or To Roose dwellyng
affor Mestresse Pastonys Gate in Norwych.*

RYGH T wyrshypful and weell belovyd brother I re-
comaunde me to yow letyng yow weet y^t I have comonyd
w^t yowr ffreende Dawnson and have receyvyd yowr Rynge off
hym and he hathe by myn advyce spoken w^t ¹ hyr ij tymes he
tellythe me off hyr delyng and answers whyche iff they wer
acordyng to hys feyng a ffeynter Lover than ye wolde and weell
aghte to take therin greet comffort so y^t he myght haply slepe
y^o werse iij nyghtys afftr. And fuche delyng in parte as was
bytwyen my Lady W. and yowr ffreende Danfon he wrote me
a bylle theroff whyche I sende yow herw^t and that y^t longyt he
to me to doo therin it shall nott ffayle to leeve all other bysfynesse
a parte. Neu'thelesse wⁱⁿ iij dayes I hope so to deele herin,
y^t I suppose to sette yow in ferteunte hoghe y^t ye shall fynde
hyr ffor evyr her afftr. It is so as I undrestande y^t ye be as
besy on yowr fyde ffor yowr ffreende Dawnson wheer as ye be
I praye God sende yow bothe goode spede in thees werkys

I have given the former part of this Letter as a specimen of the free and easy epistolary style of an age which we are too apt to consider as almost entirely illiterate; on a similar subject a modern Gentleman could scarcely have expressed himself in easier terms, or with more propriety, though in one instance perhaps with more politeness.

whyche

L E T T E R LXI.

*To John Paston, Esquire, at Norwich, or To Roose, dwelling
afore Mrs. Paston's Gate, in Norwich.*

RIGHT worshipful and well beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I have communed with your friend Dawnson, and have received your Ring of him, and he hath by mine advice spoken with^r her two times; he telleth me of her dealing and answers, which if they were according to his saying, a fainter Lover than ye would, and well ought to, take therein great comfort, so that [*even though*] he might haply sleep the worse three nights after.

And such dealing in part as was between my Lady W. and your friend Danfon he wrote me a bill thereof, which I send you herewith; and that that longeth to me to do therein, it shall not fail to leave all other busines apart; nevertheless within three days, I hope so to deal herein, that I suppose to set you in certainty how that ye shall find her for ever hereafter.

It is so, as I understand, that ye be as busy on your side for your friend Dawnson, whereas [*if*] ye be, I pray God send you both good speed in these works, which if they be brought

^r I do not know to whom this refers; it relates to some Lady to whom he then paid his addresses, (the Lady W. after mentioned I suppose) and who by the next Letter appears to be Lady Walgrave, widow of Sir Richard Walgrave, Knight,

about,

whyche iff they be browte abowte iche off yowe is moche beholden to other, yit were it pyte y^t fuche crafty wowers as ye be bothe fcholde fpeede weell, but iff ye love trewly.

It'm as ffor Stoctōns Doghtr ſhe ſhall be weddyd in haſte to Skeerne as ſhe tolde hyrſelffe to my ² Sylkemayde whyche makyth perte off fuche as ſhe ſhall weer, to whom ſhe brake hyr harte and tolde hyr y^t ſhe ſholde have hadde Maſt^r Paſton and my Mayde wende it had been I y^t ſhe ſpeke off and w^t moor y^t the ſame Meſt^r Paſton kome wher ſhe was w^t xx men and wolde have ³ taken hyr aweye. I tolde my mayde y^t ſhe lyed off me and y^t I neu' ſpake w^t hyr in my lyff ner y^t I wolde not wedde hyr to have w^t hyr iij^m1 marke.

It'm as for Ebortons dowghtr my brother Edmonde feythe y^t he herde neu' moor ſpeche y^roff fyns yowr dep'tyng and y^r ye wolde y^t he ſholde nott breke nor doo no thyng therin but iff it come off theer begynnyng.

It'm I had answer ffrom my ⁴ Lorde y^t he is my ſpeciall goode Lorde and y^t by wryghtyng and as ffor Bernaye he ſette hym in hys owne wags ffor my ſake and y^t whan ſo eu' I come to Caleys I ſhall ffynde all thyng ther as woll have it and rather bett' than it was heretoffor.

It'm, y^e Kyng come to yⁱs towne on wednyſdaye as ffor the

² A perſon who made Gowns of Silk, &c. for both men and women, as appears from the manner in which ſhe is here mentioned.

³ This was a method ſometimes practiſed, being conſonant to the martial gallantry of the times.

about, each of you is much beholden to other; yet were it pity that such crafty Wooers, as ye be both, should speed well, but if [*unless*] ye love truly.

Item, as for Stocton's Daughter, she shall be wedded in haste to Skeerne, as she told herself to my ² Silkmaid, which maketh part of such as she shall wear, to whom she broke [*opened*] her heart, and told her, that she should have had Master Paston, and my Maid wend [*thought*] it had been I that she spoke of; and with more [*moreover*] that the same Master Paston come where she was with 20 men, and would have ³ taken her away; I told my Maid that she lied of me, and that I never spoke with her in my life, nor that I would not wed her to have with her 3000 Marks (2000*l.*)

Item, as for Eberton's Daughter, my brother Edmond saith, that he heard never more speech thereof since your departing, and that ye would that he should not break, nor do nothing therein but if [*unless*] it came of their beginning.

Item, I had answer from my ⁴ Lord that he is my special good Lord, and that by writing; and as for Bernay he set him in his own Wages for my sake, and that whensoever I come to Calais, I shall find all thing there as I would have it, and rather better than it was heretofore.

Item, the King came to this Town on Wednesday; as

⁴ I am not certain whether the Duke of Norfolk is here meant, or Lord Hastings the then Governor of Calais.

Frenshe ⁵ Embassate y^t is heer they come nott in y^e Kynges
prefence by lykehod ffor men feye y^t y^e chyeff off them is
he y^t poyfonyd bothe y^e Duke off Berry and the Duke off
Calabr.

It'm ther was neu' mor lyklyhod y^t y^e Kyng shall goo ovyr
thys next yer than was now.

I praye yow remembre y^t I maye have y^e Pewter vessell heddr
by y^e next karyer by the lattr ende off thys weke.

It'm I praye yow remembr so y^t I may have the bokys by
the fame tyme whyche my Moodr seyde she wolde sende me
by the next carier.

Wretyn at London y^e fondeye y^e xx daye off Novembr
A^o. E. iiiij^{ti}. xiiij^o.

⁶ John Paston, R.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁵ For the better understanding of this curious Anecdote, which reflects honour on King Edward, both as a Sovereign Prince, and a man, it will be necessary to inform the Reader, that in 1472, Lewis XI. King of France, finding himself drawn into a war with the Duke of Burgundy, in order to bring about a marriage between his brother Charles, Duke of Berry and Guienne, and Mary, the Daughter and Heir of that Duke, employed proper Persons to destroy his Brother, and by that means to extricate him from these troubles.

The death of the Duke of Berry was effected by a slow poison, of which he died in May, 1472, aged about 26 years.

for the French ^s Ambassade [*Embassy*] that is here, they come not in the King's Presence, by likelihood, for men say, that the Chief of them is he that poisoned both the Duke of Berry and the Duke of Calabria.

Item, there was never more likelihood that the King should go over sea this next year than was now.

I pray you remember that I may have the Pewter vessel by the next Carrier by the latter end of this week.

Item, I pray you remember so that I may have the Books by the same time, which my Mother said she would send me by the next Carrier.

Written at London, the Sunday the 20th of November, in the 14th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 20th of November,
1474, 14 E. IV.

Mary, the richest Heiress of her time, was born in 1457, and by her father, the Duke of Burgundy, was promised in marriage to various Potentates, and amongst the rest to Nicholas of Anjou, Duke of Calabria and Lorrain. This Prince died in August, 1473, aged about 25, here said by poison, administered by the same hand that took off the Duke of Berry.

⁶ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

VOL. II.

Z

LET

L E T T E R LXXII.

To John Paston Esq'.

BROTHER I recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^t I have lyke as I p'mysyd yowe I have doon my devoyr to know my Lady Walg'ves stomacke whyche as God helpe me and to be pleyn to yowe I ffynde in hyr no mat' nor cawse y^t I myght tak comfort off sche will in nowyse receyve ner kepe yowr rynge w^t hyr and yit I tolde hyr y^t she scholde not be any thyng bownde therby but y^t I knew by yowr herte off olde y^t I wyft weel ye wolde be glad to fforber the lestest thyng y^t ye had in the worlde whyche myght be dayly in her presence y^t sholde cawse hyr onys on a daye to remembr yow but itt wolde not be. She wolde nott therby as she seyde putte yow ner kepe yow in any comffort therby. And mor ovyr she preyed me y^t I sholde neu' take labor moor heer in ffor she wolde holde hyr to suche answer as she hadd geven yow to ffor, wherw^t she thowght bothe ye and I wolde have holde us contente had nott been the words off hyr Suft Geneffyeff.

When I undrestood all thys and that ou' nyght she bad hyr y^t weent bytwyen hyr and me byd me brynge w^t me hyr Muskeball whyche &c. than I afr all thys axid iff she weer dyspleasyd w^t me ffor it and she seyde naye.

We are in this Letter brought acquainted with the manners of the time. The Lady shews herself a woman of honour, and above giving hope when she meant not to encourage the addresses of J. Paston. She was the widow of Sir Richard Walgrave, knight, a Yorkist, who was with the Earl of Kent at the taking of the town of Conquet, and the isle of Rhée; he died young, and was succeeded by his brother Sir Thomas Walgrave.

Than

L E T T E R LXII.

To John Paston, Esquire.

BROTHER, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I have, like as I promised you I have, done my endeavour to know my Lady Walgrave's stomach [*resolution*], which, as God help me, and to be plain to you, I find in her no matter nor cause, that I might take comfort of.

She will in no wise receive, nor keep your Ring with her, and yet I told her that she should not be any thing bound thereby; but that I knew by your heart of old, that I wist well ye would be glad to forbear the levest [*dearest*] thing that ye had in the world, which might be daily in her presence, that should cause her once on a day to remember you; but it would not be, she would not thereby, as she said, put you, nor keep you in any comfort thereby.

And moreover she prayed me, that I should never take labour more herein, for she would hold her to such answer as she had given you tofore; wherewith she thought both ye and I would have held us content, had (*it*) not been (*for*) the words of her Sister Genevieve.

When I understood all this, and that over night she bad her that went between her and me, bid me bring with me her¹ Muskball which, &c. then I after all this asked if she were displeased with me for it, and she said, nay.

¹ This Muskball, or ball of perfume, seems to have been taken from Lady Walgrave by Sir John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 10.) in a jesting manner, to send to his brother, as a present from her.

Than I tolde hyr that I had nott sent it yowe ffor synne off my fowle and so I tolde hyr all how I had wretyn to yow why that I wold nott fende it yow by cawse I wyft weell ye sholde have slepyd the werse, but nowe I tolde hyr as God helpe me y^t I wolde fende it yow and gyffe yow myn advyse nott to hope ovyr moche on hyr whyche is ovyr harde an hertyd Lady ffor a yonge man to tryft on to whyche I thowght y^t ffor all my words ye cowde nott ner wolde nott do ffor all myn advyce.

Yitt ageynwards she is nott dyspleasyd nor fforbad me nott but that ye sholde have the kepyng off hyr Muskeball wherffor de ye w^t itt as ye lyke I wolde it hadd doon weel by Good I spake ffor yow soo that in ffeythe I trowe I kowde nott seye so weel ageyn.

Wherffor I fende yow herw^t yowr Rynge and the onhappy Muskeball. Also make ye mat' off it herafftr as ye kan, I am nott happy to wow nowther ffor my selff ner noon other I tolde hyr all y^e p'cesse off the Lorde ² Howarde and off yowr grewnds as I kowde all helpys nott.

(Here follows some displeasure at his Uncle William's proceedings in matters between them, &c. of no consequence.)

I her no worde off my vessell ner off my Boks I mervayll. No mor. Wretyn at London the xj daye of Decembr A^o E. iiij^{ti}. xiiij^o.

I P. K.

9 by 6.

Part of the Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N^o 9.

² He was afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

L C C-

Then I told her, that I had not sent it you, for sin of my foul; and so I told her all, how I had written to you, why that I would not send it you, because I wist well ye should have slept the worse; but now, I told her, as God help me, that I would send it you, and give you mine advice not to hope over much on her, which is over hard an hearted Lady for a young man to trust unto; which I thought that for all my words, ye could not nor would not do for all mine advice.

Yet againwards she is not displeased, nor forbid me not but that ye should have the keeping of her Muskball; wherefore do ye with it as ye like; I would it had done well by Good, I spake for you so, that in faith I trow I could not say so well again; wherefore I send you herewith your Ring, and the unhappy Muskball; also make ye matter of it hereafter as ye can, I am not happy to woo neither for myself nor none other.

I told her all the process of the Lord ² Howard and of your grounds as I could, all helps not.

(Here follows some displeasure at his Uncle William's proceedings in matters between them, &c. of no consequence.)

I hear no word of my vessel, nor of my Books; I marvel. No more. Written at London the 11th day of December, in the 14th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 11th of Dec.,
1474, 14 E. IV.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

*To y^e Ryght worshipfull John Paston Esq^r at Norwych, or To
hys modr Margreet Paston in hys absence in haste.*

I Recomande me to yow praying yow hertely y^t I maye have weetyng when y^t my Lorde and Lady of Norff shalle be at London and howgh longe they shall tery theer and in especiall my Lorde of Norff ffor uppon ther comyng to London wer it ffor me to be guydye Neu'thelesse I wolde be foory to come theer but iff I neds most I thynke it wolde be to yow ouyr erkfom a labor to folycyte the maters atwyen them and me but iff I weer theer myselffe wherffor iff ye thynke it be convenyent that I com thyddr I praye yow sende me worde as hastely as ye maye and by what tyme ye thynke most convenyent y^t I sholde be theer and off all fuche coufforte as ye ffynde or heer off the towardnesse theroff. and when also y^t ye shall be theer yowr selffe. For it is so y^t as to morow I p'pose to ryde in to Flaundrys to p'veye me off horse and herneys. and p' case I shall see the assege at ¹ Nwse er I come ageyn iff I have tyme, wherffor iff I so doo by lyklyhod it woll be a xiiij dayes er I be heer ageyn
and

Though this Letter has no signature, yet it is written by Sir John Paston, Knight.
Pl. iv. N^o 9.

The business mentioned in the first part of this Letter, on which Sir John was so anxious to attend the Duke and Duchesse of Norfolk, was relative to Caister, &c.

And

L E T T E R LXIII.

*To the right worshipful John Paston, Esquire, at Norwich, or
To his Mother Margaret Paston, in his absence, in haste.*

I Recommend me to you, praying you heartily, that I may have weeting [*knowledge*] when that my Lord and Lady of Norfolk shall be at London, and how long they shall tarry there, and in especial my Lord of Norfolk; for upon their coming to London were it for me to be guided; nevertheless I would be sorry to come there but if [*unless*] I needs must. I think it would be to you over irksome a labour to solicit the matters atween them and me, but if [*unless*] I were there myself; wherefore, if ye think it be convenient that I come thither, I pray you send me word as hastily as ye may, and by what time ye think most convenient, that I should be there; and of all such comfort as ye find or hear of the towardness thereof, and when also that ye shall be there yourself; for it is so that as tomorrow I purpose to ride into Flanders to purvey me of Horse and Harness, and percase [*perchance*] I shall see the Siege of Nuys ere I come again, if I have time; wherefore, if I so do, by likelihood it will be a 14 days ere I be here again;

And his journey into Flanders to purchase horse and harness, was in consequence of the Treaty entered into between Edward and the Duke of Burgundy, which would be productive of a war with France.

¹ Nuys, is a Town in Germany, in the circle of the Lower Rhine, and Electorate of Cologne, on the West side of the Rhine.

and afftr as I heer ffrom yowe and other ther uppon that at the next passage and God woll I p'pose to come to London warde God sende me goode spede, in cheff ffor y^e mat' above wretyn and secondly ffor to appoynt w^t the Kyng and my Lorde ffor fuche retynwe as I iholde have now in thees werrys in to Frawnce wherffor I praye yow in Norff and other places comon w^t fuche as ye thynke lykly ffor yow and me y^t ar dysposyd to take wags in Gentylmenns howfys and ellys wher so y^t we maye be the moor redy when y^t nede is neu'thelesse at thys owr I wolde be gladde to have w^t me deyly iij or iiij mor than I have fuche as weer lykly ffor I lakke off my retynwe y^t I have neer so many. I praye yow sende me som tydyngs fuche as ye heer and howghe y^t my brother Edmonde dothe.

For as ffor tydyngs heer ther be but ffewe faffe y^t the assege lastyth styll by the Duke off Burgoyne affoor Nuse and the ² Emp'or hathe besegyed also not fferr from these a Castell and an other town in lyke wyse wher in y^e Dukys men ben. And also y^e Frenshe Kyngs men seye is comyn ryght to the wat' off ³ Somme w^t iiij^{ml} ⁴ spers and som men trowe y^t he woll at y^e daye off brekyng off ⁵ trewse or ellys byffoor sette uppon the Duks Contreys heer. When I heer moor I shall sende yowe moor tydyngs.

The Kyngs Inbassators S^r Thomas Mongom'e and y^e ⁶ Mast^r

² Frederick III. of Austria, Emperor of Germany.

³ A River running through Picardy, in France.

⁴ Soldiers with armed Spears, &c.

and after, as I hear from you and others thereupon, that at the next passage, and God will, I purpose to come to London ward: God send me good speed; in chief for the matter above written; and secondly, for to appoint with the King and my Lord, for such Retinue as I should have now in these wars into France; wherefore I pray you in Norfolk, and other places, commune with such as ye think likely for you and me, that are disposed to take wages in Gentlemen's Houses and elsewhere, so that we may be the more ready, when that need is; nevertheless at this hour, I would be glad to have with me daily three or four more than I have, such as were likely; for I lack of my Retinue, that I have near so many.

I pray you send me some tidings, such as ye hear, and how that my brother Edmund doth; for as for tidings here, there be but few, save that the Siege lasteth still by the Duke of Burgundy afore Nuys, and the ² Emperor hath besieged also, not far from thence, a Castle, and another Town in like wise, wherein the Duke's men be.

And also, the French King, men say, is coming nigh to the water of ³ Somme with 4000 ⁴ Spears, and some men trow [*think*] that he will, at the day of breaking of ⁵ Truce, or else before, set upon the Duke's Countries here.

When I hear more, I shall send you more tidings.

The King's Ambassador Sir Thomas Montgomery and the ⁶ Mas-

³ This Truce between Louis XI. King of France, and the Duke of Burgundy, was to be at an end in the beginning of the summer in 1475.

⁶ Dr. John Morton, afterwards Bishop of Ely, Lord Chancellor, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal.

off the Rolls be comyng homwards ffrom ⁷ Nuse and as ffor me I thynke y^t I sholde be sek but iff I see it.

Syr John off Parre and Willm Berkeley com thys weye to Flaunders ward to by them horse and ⁸ herneys and made Sr. J. Parr goode cheer as I cowde ffor yowr sake and he tolde me y^t ye made hym haulte cheer &c. at Norwyche. No moor. Wretyn at Caleys the xvij daye off Janeu' A^o Edwardi iiij^{ti}. xiiij^o.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁷ The Duke persisted in this Siege, though the Emperor, with a large force, was in the neighbourhood, much to his own disadvantage, as it prevented his meeting the King of England; and at last the Siege was raised on certain conditions.

L E T T E R LXXII.

On the back of the foregoing Letter is written by Mrs. Margaret Paston (Pl. II. N^o 20.) to her Son, John Paston, the following.

JOHN PASTON I send yow Godds blyssyng and myn letyng yow wete y^t I hadd non er thys lettyr than on Sent Matheus evyn yf I myth a had an massenger or thys tym I had sent yt yow I con yow thank for y^e lettyr y^t ye sent to my Cosyn Calthorpp and me of the tydyngs I wold ye shuld do soo mor as ye may remēbyr y^t I spak to yow for y^e xx^{ti} li for my Cosyn Clere spek to yowr hunkyll therof and send me an answer therof

ter of the Rolls be coming homeward from 7 Nuys, and as for me, I think that I should be sick but if [*unless*] I see it.

Sir John of Parre and William Berkeley come this way to Flanders ward to buy them Horse and ³ Harnefs, and (*I*) made Sir J. Parr (*as*) good cheer as I could for your sake; and he told me, that ye made him haulte [*high*] cheer, &c. at Norwich. No more. Written at Calais, the 17th day of January, in the 14th year of Edward IV.

Calais,
Tuesday, 17th of January,
1474, 14 E. IV.

³ This term implies armour.

L E T T E R LXIV.

On the back of the foregoing Letter, is written by Mrs. Margaret Paston, to her Son John Paston, the following.

JOHN PASTON, I send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet, that I had none ere this Letter than on Saint Matthew's even; if I might have had a Messenger ere this time I had sent it you; I con you thank for the Letter that ye sent to my Cousin Calthorp and me of the tidings; I would ye should do so more. As ye may remember that I spake to you for the 20l. for my Cousin Clere, speak to your Uncle thereof, and send me an answer thereof in haste.

A a 2

And

therof in haft and for y^e ¹ lycens y^t I fpak to yow for to have y^e Sacrement in my Chapell yf ye cannot getyt of y^e Bufshop of Norwych getyt of y^e Bufshop of Caunterbery for y^t ys moſt ſwyr for all plaſe God kepe yow. Wretyn on Mydlent Sunday.

¹ We are here informed that the Archbiſhop's Licence was preferable to that of the Dioceſan, and ſeemed to have greater Privileges annexed to it.

L E T T E R LXXI.

To the right worſhipfull S^r. John Paſton knyght in haſte.

RIGHT welbeloved Sone &c. (*The chief part of this Letter relates to Sir John Paſton's private affairs, his rents and lands, and informs him that William Jenney had entered into Holme-halle in Filby in the ryght and titell of his Douterlawes weche was Boys Doughter, &c.*)

As for tidyns here in this Contre we have non but that the Contry is bareyn of money and y^e my Lady of ¹ Yorke and all her howfold is here at Sent ² Benetts and p^opoſed to abide there ſtille

¹ Cecily, Duchefs of York, Daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Weſtmoreland, was the Widow of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Mother of King Edward IV. &c. She died in 1495, and was buried near her huſband in the college of Fotheringay.

² The Abbey of St. Bennet at Holm was ſituated in the pariſh of Horning in Norfolk, in the miſt of a now dreary and ſolitary marſh, not likely to be choſen for the wholeſomenefs of the air.

And for the ¹ Licence that I spake to you, for to have the Sacrament in my Chapel, if ye cannot get it of the Bishop of Norwich, get it of the Bishop of Canterbury, for that is most sure for all places.

God keep you. Written on Midlent Sunday.

Midlent Sunday,
5th of March, 1474,
15 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXV.

To the right worshipful Sir John Paston, Knight, in haste.

RIGHT well beloved Son, &c. (*The chief part of this Letter relates to Sir John Paston's private affairs, his rents and lands, and it informs him that William Jenney had entered into Holm Hall, in Filby, in the right and title of his Daughter in law, which was Boys's Daughter, &c.*)

As for tidings here in this Country, we have none, but that the Country is barren of money; and that my Lady of ¹ York and all her Household is here at Saint ² Bennet's, and purposed

The remains of this once grand and mitred Abbey, are now very small, standing in the midst of a level marsh, intersected by a great number of almost stagnant ditches.

I am however informed by a most respectable Gentleman, whose Seat is in the neighbourhood, that many of the Towns surrounding this spot are remarkable for the longevity of their Inhabitants.

If such is the effect of this air now, perhaps in the flourishing state of the Abbey, it might be still more salubrious.

to

stille til the Kyng come from be yonde the ³ see and lenger if she like the eyre ther as it is seide.

I thynke ryght longe tille I here som' tidyngs ⁴ for you and from yo^r brethern I prey God sende you and al yo^r Company goode spede in yo^r Jōrneys to his plesure and to yo^r worshippes and p'fighths. Wreten at Mauteby on Sen Lawrens even the xv yere of the regne of Kyng E. the iiijth.

Be yo^r ⁵ Moder.

¹² by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

³ He was at this time in France.

⁴ Quære, from?

LETTER LXIII.

To Sr. John Paston knyght lodgyd at the George by Powlys wherff in London.

AFTYR all dwtes of recomendacyon please it yow to undyrstand that I have spoken w^t my Lady sythe I wrot to yow last, and she told me that the Kyng had no fyche woordys to my Lord for Cast' as ye told me but she seyth that the Kyng axid my Lord at hys dep'tyng fro Caleys how he wold deele w^t Cast' and my Lord answerd nevyr a woord.
S^r.

to abide there still, till the King come from beyond the ³ Sea, and longer if she like the air there, as it is said.

I think right long till I hear some tidings ⁴ for you and from your brethren. I pray God fend you, and all your Company good speed in your Journies, to his pleasure, and to your worships and profits.

Written at Maultby, on Saint Laurence's even, the 15th year of the reign of King Edward the IV.

BY YOUR ⁵ MOTHER.

Mawtby.
Thursdai, 10th of August,
1475, 15 E. IV.

⁵ Margaret Paston, Daughter and Heir of John Mawtby, Esquire, and widow of John Paston, Esquire. Pl. 11. N^o 20.

L E T T E R LXVI.

To Sir John Paston, Knight, lodged at the George, by Paul's Wharff, in London.

AFTER all duties of recommendation, please it you to understand, that I have spoken with my Lady since I wrote to you last; and she told me that the King had no such words to my Lord for Caister, as ye told me; but she saith, that the King asked my Lord at his departing from Calais, how he would deal with Caister, and my Lord answered never a word.

Sr. W. ¹ Brandon stood by and the Kyng axid hym what my Lord wold do in that mater feyīg that he had comandyd hym befor tyme to meve my Lord w^t that mater and Sr. W. Brandon gave the Kyng to answer that he had doone so then the Kyng axid Sr. W. B. what my Lordys answer was to hym and Sr. W. B. told the Kyng that my Lords answer was that the Kyng shold as soone have hys lyff as that place and then the Kyng axid my Lord whedyr he feyd so or nought and my Lord feyd yee and the Kyng feyd not o woord ayen but tornyd hys bak and went hys wey, but my Lady told me and the Kyng had spokyn any woord in the world aftyr that to my Lord, my Lord wold not have feyd hym nay And I have gevyn my Lady warnyng that I wyll do my Lord no more serveys, but er we p^tyd she mad me to make hyr promes that I shold let hyr have knowlege er I fastonyd myselff in eny other serveysse and so I dep^tyd and fye hyr not synes, nor nought p^pose to doo tyll I spek w^t yow.

I prey yow bryng home some hattys w^t yow or and ye come not haftyly fend me on, &c. and I shall pay yow for it a Comb² Otys when ye come home.

My Modyr wold fayn have yow at Mawtby she rode thydyr ought of Norwyche on sat^rday last past to p^vey yo^r lodgyng redy ayenst yo^r comyng.

This Letter records a most curious conversation between the King, the Duke of Norfolk, and Sir William Brandon, relative to Caister.

¹ Sir William Brandon was father of Charles Brandon, afterwards created Duke of Suffolk.

I have

Sir W. ¹ Brandon stood by, and the King asked him, what my Lord would do in that matter; saying, that he had commanded him before time to move my Lord with that matter, and Sir W. Brandon gave the King to answer, that he had done so; then the King asked Sir W. B. what my Lord's answer was to him, and Sir W. B. told the King, that my Lord's answer was, that the King should as soon have his life as that place; and then the King asked my Lord, whether he said so or not, and my Lord said, yea. And the King said not one word again, but turned his back, and went his way; but my Lady told me, and [*if*] the King had spoken any word in the world after that to my Lord, my Lord would not have said him, nay.

And I have given my Lady warning that I will do my Lord no more service; but ere we parted, she made me to make her (*a*) promise, that I should let her have knowledge ere I fastened myself in any other service; and so I departed, and see her not since, nor nought purpose to do, till I speak with you.

I pray you bring home some Hats with you, or and [*if*] ye come not hastily, send me one, &c. and I shall pay you for it a Comb (*of*) ² Oats, when ye come home.

My Mother would fain have you at Mawtby; she rode thither, out of Norwich on Saturday last past, to purvey your lodging ready against your coming.

² In 1475, a Comb of Oats sold for 11*d*. we have therefore the value of a Hat in this reign.

I have been ryght 3 feek ayen fythe I wroote to yow last and thys same day have I ben peflyg feek it wyll not ought of my stomak by no mean I am undon I may not ete halff I nough when I have most hungry I am so well dyettyd and yet it wyll not be God fend yow heele for have non iij dayes to gedyr do the best I can.

Wretyn at Norwyche the monday next be for Seynt ⁴ Simone and Jude A°. E. iiij xv°.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

⁵ A. D.

³ I have put in this account of his sickness, to show the sensible method prescribed for his recovery, by dieting him, and debarring him from much victuals.

LETTER LXXIII.

This Letter has no Direction, but it is written either To John Paston Esquier or Margaret Paston.

LYKE it yow to weete y^t not in y^e most happy season Lffor me it is so ffortunyed y^t wher as my Lorde off Norffolke yist'daye beying in goode heele thys nyght dyed

This Letter shews us, how anxious our Ancestors were, that every due mark of Distinction, according to his rank, should be paid to the Corpse of a Nobleman. They seemed moreover to think every attention of that sort not only for the honour of the deceased, but likewise conducive to the future happiness of his Soul.

In this enlightened age we smile at the superstitious part of this eager concern for external parade; but I own, I think that all Persons of Rank and Fortune should be borne to the Grave with those Marks of Honour and Distinction, which were due to their Rank in the Community, in which they lived; and not sent to the family Vault (according to the present fashion of the times) unmourned and unattended.

Subordination, in every Government, is necessary for the well being of the whole; and that this should be effectually preserved, those dignified Distinctions, which modern manners seem too much to neglect, are absolutely necessary.

abowte

I have been right ³ sick again since I wrote to you last, and this same day have I been passing sick ; it will not out of my stomach by no mean, I am undone I may not eat half enough, when I have most hunger, I am so well dieted, and yet it will not be. God send you heele [*health*], for (*I*) have none three days together, do the best I can.

Written at Norwich, the Monday next before Saint ⁴ Simon and Jude, in the 15th year of Edward IV.

⁵ JOHN PASTON.

Norwich,
Monday, 23d of October,
1475, 15 E. IV.

⁴ 28th of October.

⁵ Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 12.

L E T T E R · LXVII.

This Letter has no Direction, but it is written either To John Paston, Esquire, or Margaret Paston.

L I K E it you to weet, that not in the most happy season for me, it is so fortun'd, that whereas my Lord of ¹ Norfolk, yesterday being in good health, this night died about

¹ John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, &c. was retained by Edward IV. to serve him in his wars in France, in 1473 ; he married Elizabeth, Daughter of John Talbot, first Earl of Shrewsbury, and died suddenly at his Castle of Framlingham, on the 17th of January, 1475, 15 E. IV. and was buried in the Abbey Church of Thetford, in Norfolk.

He left an only Daughter and Heir, Anne, married in her early age to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, who dying without issue, the great Possessions and Honours of this noble Family came to Sir John Howard, Knight, Lord Howard, whose Mother was a Sister and Coheir of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

B b 2

midnight,

abowte mydnyght wherffor it is ffor alle y^t lovyd hym to doo and helpe nowe that that maye be to hys honoure and weell to hys Sowele. And it is foo y^t thys contre is nott weell p'veyd off Clothe off Golde ffor the Coveryng ffor hys bodye and herse wherffor eu'y man helpyng to hys power I putte the² Councell off my Lorde in cownffort y^t I hoped to gete one ffor that daye if it weer so y^t it be nott broken or putt to other use.

Wherffor please it yow to sende me worde iff it be so y^t ye have or kan kom by the Clothe off Tyffewe y^t I bowte ffor our ffaders tombe and I undretake it shall be faffyd ageyn ffor yowe on hurt at my perell I deeme herby to gete greet thanke and greet affystence in tyme to come and that owther Syme or Mother Brown maye deliu' it me to morow by vij off y^e klokke.

It'm as ffor other means I have sente my servaunt Richard Toring to London whyche I hope shall brynge me goode tydyngs ageyn and w^t in iiij dayes I hope to see yowe.

Wretyn on wednyfdaye xvij daye off Janyver A°. E. iiij^{ti} xv°.

³ John Paston, R.

8 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

² Those Officers of the Duke's Household, who composed his Council, were in attendance at Framlingham, or they could not so immediately have been called together, as his death was so very sudden.

Such was the magnificence of our ancient Nobility, that their Households were established on the plan of a Court. Like such royal Establishments, they had their Council, Comptroller, Chamberlain, Treasurer, &c. &c. The Council of the Duke of Norfolk must therefore have been attending in the house where he resided.

See the Earl of Northumberland's Household Book, &c.

midnight, wherefore it is for all that loved him to do and help now that, that may be to his honour, and weal to his Soul; and it is so, that this Country is not well purveyed of Cloth of Gold for the covering for his Body and Herse; wherefore every man helping to his power, I put the ² Council of my Lord in comfort, that I hoped to get one for that day, if it were so that it be not broken, or put to other use; wherefore please it you to send me word if it be so, that ye have, or can come by the Cloth of Tissue, that I bought for our Father's Tomb, and I undertake it shall be saved again for you unhurt at my peril; I deem hereby to get great thanks, and great assistance in time to come; and that either Sym or Mother Brown may deliver it me to-morrow by seven of the clock.

Item, as for other means, I have sent my servant Richard Toring to London, which I hope shall bring me good tidings again, and within four days I hope to see you.

Written on Wednesday the 17th day of January, in the 15th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Framlingham,
Wednesday, 17th of January,
1475, 15 E. IV.

² Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 9.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXIII.

To John Paston Esq'er at Norwyche be thys delyu'yd.

I Recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^t I was infformyd by Ric Radle y^t on Scarlett y^t was Undrescheryff to ¹ Haftyngs wolde fywe to me on yowr behalff ffor that ye weer dyspleasyd w^t a ret^{ne}ne off ² Nichill uppon yow in y^e feyde Haftyngs tyme wherffor Ric Radle thoghte y^t the feyde Scarlett wolde be gladde to gyff yow a Noble or a Riall ffor a Sadell to amends so y^t ye wolde seafe and stoppe the bylle whyche ye entende to putt into y^e corte ageyn hys Mast' Haftyngs.

Wherffor the feyde Scarlett com to me and prayed me to helpe in the fame and so I have don my devoir to ffee off hym the most y^t he can ffynde in hys stomake to dep't w^t to please yow and in conclusyon I trowe he shall gyff yow a doblett clothe off Sylke p'ce xx^s or y^rabout whyche uppon fuche answer as I heer ffrom yowe I deme y^t Byfshop the Ator-nye shall iff I conclude w^t hym on yowr behalve paye in mony or otherwyse to whom y^t ye woll affynge heer.

I have given the whole of this Letter as conveying to us some information relative to the ordinary transactions of the times.

The Anecdote of the Duke of York's marrying Anne, the Daughter of the deceased Duke of Norfolk, depending on the Duchefs (who appears to have been left with child at the Duke's decease) not having a Son, is I believe both new and curious, and shews us that Alliances as well in those days as at present, were estimated according to the possessions and pecuniary advantages they brought with them.

L E T T E R LXVIII.

To John Paston, Esquire, at Norwich, be this delivered.

I Recommend me to you, letting yow weet, that I was informed by Richard Radle, that one Scarlett, that was Under-sheriff to ¹ Haftyngs, would sue to me on your behalf, for that ye were displeased with a Return of ² Nichil upon you in the said Haftyngs' time; wherefore Richard Radle thought that the said Scarlett would be glad to give a Noble (6s. 8d.) or a Rial (10s. 0d.) for a Saddle to amends, so that ye would cease and stop the bill, which ye intend to put into the Court against his Master Haftyngs.

Wherefore the said Scarlett came to me, and prayed me to help in the same, and so I have done my devoir [*endeavour*] to feel of him the most he can find in his stomach to depart with to please you; and in conclusion I trow, he shall give you a Doublet Cloth of silk, price 20s. or thereabout; which upon such answer as I hear from you, I deem that Bishop the Attorney shall, if I conclude with him on your behalf, pay in money or otherwise, to whom that ye will assign here.

¹ John Haftyngs was Sheriff of Norfolk the preceding year.

² Nihils or Nichils, are issues which the Sheriff that is apposed in the Exchequer says, are *nothing worth* and illeviable, through the insufficiency of the Parties from whom due.

I shall

I shall by the means of Raddele weet at whoys fywte it was takyn owte. I deme it som thyng doon by craffte by the means off them that have entresse in your lond to yentent to noyse itt therys or to make yow past shame off the sel-lyng theroff. It'm I have receyvyd a lett' ffrom yowe wretyn on tywesdaye last.

It'm wher y^t som towards my Lady off Norff' noyse y^t I dyd onkyndely to sende so hastely to Cast' as I dyd, y^r is no dyscrete p'son y^t so thynkyth, ffor if my Lorde hade ben as kynde to me as he myght have ben and acordyng to fuche hert and servyce as my Grauntffadr my ffadr yowr selff and I have owght and doon to my Lords off Norff' y^t ded ben, and yitt iff I hadde weddyd hys Dowghtr, yitt most I have doon as I dydde.

And moor ovyr iff I had hadde any demyng off my Lordys Dethe iiij howrs or he dyed I most neds but iff I wolde be knowyn a ffoole have entryd it the howr byffor hys dycesse, but in effecte theygh that in y^t mater have always ment onkyndely to me they ffeyne y^t Rumor ageyn me, but ther is noon that ment truly to hym y^t dede is y^t wolde be fory y^t I hadde itt and in especiall fuche as love hys fowle.

It'm wher it is demyd y^t my Lady wolde herafftr be the rather myn *hevy Lady ffor y^t delyng I thynke y^t she is to resonable so to be, ffor I did it nott onwyft to hyr Cowncell, y^r was no man thoght y^t I sholde doo otherwyffe an as to seye y^t I myght have hadde my Ladyes advyce or lyve, I myght have teryed yitt or I cowde have speken w^t hyr, or yitt have hadde
any

I shall by the means of Radle weet at whose suit it was taken out ; I deem it something done by craft, by the means of them that have entresse [*interest*] in your land, to the intent to noise it theirs, or to make you past shame of the selling thereof.

Item, I have received a letter from you written on Tuesday last.

Item, where that [*whereas*] some towards my Lady of Norfolk noise that I did unkindly to send so hastily to Caister as I did ; there is no discreet person that so thinketh ; for if my Lord had been as kind to me as he might have been, and according to such heart [*good will*] and service as my Grandfather, my Father, yourself, and I, have ought and done to my Lords of Norfolk that dead been, and yet [*even*] if I had wedded his Daughter, yet must I have done as I did ; and moreover, if I had had any deeming of my Lord's death four hours ere he died, I must needs, but if [*unless*] I would be known a Fool, have entered it the hour before his decease ; but in effect, they that in that matter have always meant unkindly to me, they feign that Rumour against me ; but there is none that meant truly to him that dead is, that would be sorry that I had it, and in especial such as love his Soul.

Item, where (*as*) it is deemed that my Lady would hereafter be the rather mine * heavy [*unkind*] Lady for that dealing, I think that she is too reasonable so to be, for I did it not unwist [*unknown*] to her Council ; there was no man thought that I should do otherwise, and as to say, that I might have had my Lady's advice and leave, I might have tarried yet, ere I could have spoken with her, or yet have had any body to have

* That is, bear hard upon me.

any body to have mevyd hyr y^ron my behalve as ye wote I dydde what I cowde. Moreovyr I taryed by the advyce off S^r. Rob^t. Wyngffelde iij dayes y^r, ffor y^t he putte me in comffirt y^t y^e ³ Lord Howard and hys brother S^r. John sholde have comen to Norwyche att whoys comyng he dowtyd nott but y^t I sholde have a goode dyrecton takyn ffor me in that mat^r they leyhe to me onkyndeneffe ffor ovyrkyndeneffe.

It'm as ffor my Mat^r heer itt was thys daye beffoor alle the Lordes off the Cowncelle and amonge them all it was nott thought y^t in my fendyng off Whetley thyddr in media'tly afftr the dyceffe off y^e Duke y^t I dalt onkyndly or onfyttyngly but y^t I was moor onrefonably dalte wth wherffor lat^r men deme what they wylle gretteft clerkys are nott alweye wyfest men, but I hope hastely to have on weye in it or other.

It'm I wende to have ffownde a Gowne off myn heer, but it come home the fame daye y^t I come owte browght by Herry Berker lod^r I wolde in alle haft possiblle have that fame Gowne off ⁴ puke ffurryd w^t whyght lambe. It'm I wolde have my longe ruffett Gowne off y^e ffrenshe ruffett in alle haft ffor I have no Gowne to goo in her.

It'm I praye yow recomande me to my Moodr and lat us alle prey God fende my Lady off Norff^r a Soone, for uppon y^t restythe moche mat^r ffor if the Kyngys ⁵ Soone mary my

³ Afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

⁴ As it is probable that Sir John Paston (Pl. IV. N^o 9.) would put on mourning for the Duke of Norfolk, if it was the custom of the times, I should wish to know whether Gowns of Puke and Ruffet colours were then used on those occasions.

Puck or Pouk is an old Gothic word signifying the Devil, see Pierce Plowman, Spenser, &c. Hence Puke became synonymous to black, or dark grey, and consequently might be used for mourning. In Barrett's Alveare 1580, it is explained as a colour between ruffet and black, and is rendered in Latin by Pullus. On Good Friday the Lord Mayor and Aldermen always wore their *perwke gowens*.

moved her there on my behalf, as ye wot I did what I could ; moreover I tarried by the advice of Sir Robert Wingfield three days there, for that he put me in comfort that the Lord³ Howard, and his brother Sir John, should have come to Norwich, at whose coming he doubted not but that I should have a good direction taken for me in that matter, they lay to me unkindness for overkindness.

Item, as for my matter here, it was this day before all the Lords of the Council, and among them all, it was not thought, that in my sending of Wheatley thither, immediately after the decease of the Duke, that I dealt unkindly or unfittingly, but that I was more unreasonably dealt with ; wherefore, let men deem what they will, greatest Clerks are not always wisest men ; but I hope hastily to have one way in it or other.

Item, I wend [*thought*] to have found a Gown of mine here, but it come home the same day that I come out, brought by Harry Berker Load^r [*carrier*]. I would in all haste possible have that same Gown of 4 puke furred with white Lamb.

Item, I would have my long Ruffet Gown of the French Ruffet in all haste, for I have no Gown to go in here.

Item, I pray you recommend me to my Mother, and let us all pray God (*to*) send my Lady of Norfolk a Son, for upon that resteth much matter ; for if the King's⁵ Son marry my Lord's

³ Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, second Son of King Edward IV. in January 1477, married Anne, sole Daughter and Heir of John Mowbray, late Duke of Norfolk. She died in her early years without issue, and he is supposed to have been murdered by his Uncle the Duke of Gloucester, in 1483.

The Duchefs of Norfolk therefore either miscarried, or the Child died soon after its birth, as Anne was at her marriage sole Daughter and Heir of the Mowbray Honours and Possessions.

Lords Dowghtr the Kynge wolde y^t hys Soone sholde have a ffayr place in Norff' thowhe he sholde gyffe me ij tymes y^e valywe in other londe as I am doon to weete. I praye yow fende me worde off my Ladyes spede as foone as ye kan.

It'm as ffor Bowen I shall ffele hym and sholde have doon thowghe ye hadde nott fente.

It'm ther is offryd me a goode marriage for my Suft' Anne Skypw'thys sone and heyr off Lynkolneshyre a man v or vj^e mrke by year. No mor.

Wretyn at London y^e xxvij daye off Janyver A^o. E. iiij^{ti}. xv^o.

It'm my Lady off ' Excest' is ded and it was feyde y^t bothe y^e olde Dywchesse off ' Norff' and y^e Cowntesse off ' Oxenfforde weer ded but it is nott foo yitt. It'm I shall remembr Caleyse bothe for horse and alle, &c.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 10 $\frac{1}{4}$.

* Anne, Daughter of Richard, Duke of York, Sister of Edward IV. and widow of Henry Holland, the last Duke of Exeter, her first husband; she died 14th of January, 1475, and lies buried with Sir Thomas Saint Leger, Knight, her second Husband, in a private Chapel at Windsor.

ECT-

Daughter, the King would that his Son should have a fair place in Norfolk, though he should give me two times the value in other land, as I am done to weet [*informed*].

I pray you send me word of my Lady's speed as soon as ye can.

Item, as for Bowen I shall feel him [*sound his inclination*], and should have done, though ye had not sent.

Item, there is offered me a good marriage for my Sister Anne, Skipwith's son and heir of Lincolnshire, a man (*of*) 5 or 600 marks (*between 3 and 400l.*) by the year.

No more. Written at London the 27th day of January, in the 15th year of Edward IV.

Item, my Lady of ⁶ Exeter is dead, and it was said, that both the old Duchefs of ⁷ Norfolk, and the Countefs of ⁸ Oxford were dead, but it is not so yet.

Item, I shall remember Calais both for horse and all, &c.

London,
Saturday, 27th of January,
1475, 15 E. IV.

⁷ Ellenor, only Daughter of William Bouchier, Earl of Ewe, in Normandy, and widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

⁸ Margaret, Daughter of Richard Nevile, Earl of Salisbury, and wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, now a Prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy: or it may refer to Elizabeth, widow of the late Earl of Oxford, and daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, Knight.

L E T T E R LXXII.

*To Mestresse Margrete Paston at Norwiche, or byr Sone John
Paston esquier and to eu'ych off them.*

I Recomande me to yowe, like it yow to weete y^t I am nott ferta^ye yitt whether my ¹ Lorde and I shall come into Inge-
londe y^e weke byffoor Estne or Ellys the weke afftr Estne
wherffor Moodr I besече yow to take noo dysplefyr w^t me
ffor my longe tarynge ffor I most doo noon otherwyse ffor
dysplefying off my Lorde. I was noo thyng gladde off thys
jornaye iff I myght goodely have chosē neu'thelesse favyng
y^t ye have cawse to be dyspleasyd w^t me ffor the mat' off Kokett
I am ellys ryght gladde ffor I hope y^t I ame fferre moor in ffavor
w^t my Lorde then I was to ffor.

It'm I sende yow brother John a Lett' herw^t whyche was
browte hyddr to Caleys ffrom y^e George at Powles wharff I
deme it comethe ffrom my brother Wat'.

It'm iff ye entende hyddrewarde itt weer weell doon y^t ye
hygthed yowe ffor I suppose y^t my Lorde wille take the vywe

This Letter furnishes us with a curious Anecdote relative to Earl Rivers, who, we may suppose, had been on a Pilgrimage to Rome; for Caxton tells us, that he was "sometime full vertuously occupied in goyng of Pilgrimagis:" he likewise procured "greet and large indulgence and grace from our holy Fader the Pope". But it is plain, he had not procured a papal Protection from Robbers.

off

L E T T E R LXIX.

To Mrs. Margaret Paston, at Norwich, or her Son John Paston, Esquire, and to each of them.

I Recommend me to you, like it you to weet, that I am not certain yet whether my ¹ Lord and I shall come into England the week before Easter, or else the week after Easter; wherefore, Mother, I beseech you to take no displeasure with me for my long tarrying, for I must do none otherwise for (*fear of*) displeasing of my Lord.

I was nothing glad of this journey, if I might goodly have chosen; nevertheless saving that ye have cause to be displeased with me for the matter of Kocketts, I am else right glad, for I hope that I am far more in favour with my Lord than I was tofore.

Item, I send you, Brother John, a Letter herewith, which was brought hither to Calais, from the George at Paul's Wharf; I deem it cometh from my brother Walter.

Item, if ye intend hitherwards, it were well done that ye hygthed [*bied*] you, for I suppose that my Lord will take

¹ Sir John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 10.) attended his Lord to Calais, on Saturday the 9th of March, as appears by another Letter from him, dated the 12th of March, 16 E. IV. and written from Guisnes, where they then were.—Easter Sunday was this year on the 14th of April.

off alle hys retynywe heer nowe byffoor hys dep'tyng and I thynke y^t he wolde be bett' contente w^t yowr comyng nowe than an other tyme doo as ye thynke best and as ye maye.

It'm wher Mast^r.² Fytzwalt' made me to wryght to yowe to advyse yow to tarye I remytte thatt to yowr dyscretion.

As ffor tydyngs heer we her ffrom alle the worlde, ffyrst the Lorde Ryverse was at Roome right weell and honorably and other Lords off Ynglonde as y^e Lord³ Hurmonde and y^e Lord⁴ Scrope and at ther dep'tyng xij myle on thysehalff Roome, the Lorde Ryverse was robbyd off alle hys Jowelles and Plate whyche was worthe m^l^e ⁵ mr'ke or bett' and is retornyd to Rome ffor a Remedy.

It'm y^e Duke of⁶ Burgoyne hathe conqueryd Loreyn and Qune⁷ Margreet shall nott nowe be lykelyhod have it wherffor the frenshe Kynge cheryfsheth hyr butt easelye, but afftr thys conquest off Loreyn the Duke toke grete corage to goo uppon the Londe off the Swechys to conquer them butt the berded hym att an onfett place and hathe dystruffyd hym and hathe slayne the most parte off hys vanwarde and wonne all hys

² In the same Letter he tells his Brother that Master Fitzwalter is very anxious to have him remain in Norfolk, and not come to Calais, as he and his Family are coming to their house at Attleborough to reside; and that from Master Fitzwalter's discourse he found that it would be long "er he scholde be wery off yowr expens off horse or man."

³ Quære, Lord Ormond?

⁴ John, Lord Scroop, of Bolton,

⁵ Allowing for the difference of weight, and value of money between this and the present time, he lost to the amount of nearly 4000l.

Ordynaunce

the view of all his Retinue here, now before his departing; and I think that he would be better content with your coming now, than another time; do as ye think best, and as ye may.

Item, where (*as*) Master ² Fytzwalter made me to write to you to advise you to tarry, I remit that to your discretion.

As for tidings here, we hear from all the world, first, the Lord Rivers was at Rome right well and honourably, and other Lords of England, as the Lord ³ Hurmonde, the Lord ⁴ Scrope, and at their departing twelve miles on this half Rome, the Lord Rivers was robbed of all his Jewels and Plate, which was worth 1000 ⁵ Marks (666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) or better, and is returned to Rome for a Remedy.

Item, the Duke of ⁶ Burgundy hath conquered Lorrain, and Queen ⁷ Margaret shall not now by likelihood have it; wherefore the French King cherisheth her but * easily [*slightly, little*]; but after this conquest of Lorrain, the Duke took great courage to go upon the Land of the Swifs to conquer them, but they berded [*confronted*] him at an unset [*unlooked for*] place, and hath distressed [*harassed*] him, and hath slain the most part of his

⁶ During the preceding Autumn, the Duke of Burgundy having subdued the whole Duchy of Lorrain, he now attacked the Swifs, and took a town called Granfon, just as a body of troops were arriving to its relief; these he went to meet, as they came down the narrow passes of the Mountains; when his Army, being seized with a panick, fled, and left his baggage to be plundered by the Enemy.

Within a short time after this he besieged Morat, a small town near Bern, when a battle ensued, in which he was totally routed.

⁷ This Queen had been lately delivered from her imprisonment in the Tower, to the French King, on his engaging to pay 50,000 Crowns for her ransom.

* So in Letter V. p. 17. I have but easy shiffe of money, that is, *little store* of money.

Ordynaunce and Artylrye and mor ovyr alle stufte thatt he hade in hys oft w^t hym exceppte men and horse y^t fledde nott but they roode y^t nyght xx myle and so the Ryche ⁸ Saletts Heulmetts Garters ⁹ Nowchys Gelt and alle is goone w^t Tents Pavylons and alle and soo men deme hys pryde is abatyd. Men tolde hym that they weer ffrowarde Karllys butte he wolde nott beleve it and yitt men seye y^t he woll to them ageyn Gode spede them bothe.

It'm Sr. John Mydelton toke leve off y^e Duke to sporte hym but he is sett in pryson att Bruffellys.

I praye yowe sende me som worde iff ye thynke likly y^e I may entr Cast' when I woll by the next Messeng^r.

Wretyn at Caley's in resonable helthe, off bodye and fowle I thanke Good the xxj daye off Marche A^o. E. iiij^{ti}. xvj^o.

A. P. K.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
The Letter G, and a Cross.
Pl. XII. N^o 18.

⁸ Light Head pieces.

REC-

Vanward [*Varward*], and won all his Ordnance and Artillery, and moreover all Stuff that he had in his Host; except men and horse that fled not, but they rode that night twenty miles; and so the rich⁹ Salets, Helmets, Garters, Nowches Gelt [*gold*], and all is gone, with Tents, Pavilions, and all, and so men deem his pride is abated [*humbled*]; men told him, that they were froward Carles, but he would not believe it, and yet men say, that he will to them again, God speed them both.

Item, Sir John Myddleton took leave of the Duke to sport him, but he is fet in prison at Brussels.

I pray you send me some word, if ye think likely, that I may enter Caister when I will, by the next Messenger.

Written at Calais, in reasonable health of body and soul, I thank God, the 21st day of March, in the sixteenth year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais,
Thursday, 21st of March,
1475, 16 E. IV.

⁹ Embossed Ornaments—Chains—Buckles, &c.

D d 2

LET-

L E T T E R LXX.

To John Paston Esquier at Norwyche in hast.

I Recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^r yift'daye beganne the grete Cowncell to whyche alle the Aftats off y^e londe shall com to butt if it be ffor gret and reasonable excusis and I suppose y^e cheffe cawse off thys Assemble is to comon what is best to doo now uppon y^e greet change by the dethe off y^e Duke of Burgoyne and ffor y^e kepyng off Caleys and the Marchys and ffor the p^rservacōn off y^e Amyteys taken late as weell w^t Fraunce as now w^t the Membrys off Flaundres wher to I dowt nott y^r shall be in all hast bothe y^e Dukes off Clarence and Glowcestre wheroff I wolde y^r my brother E wyft.

It'm I ffeele butt litell effecte in the labor off W. Alyngton, neu'thelesse I deme it is nott for yow she shall not passe C C Mr'k as fferr as I can undrestand ap'te. It'm I will nott fforget yow otherwyse.

Itt is so y^r thys daye I heer grett liklyhood y^r my Lorde Hastyns shall hastely goo to Caleys w^t greet Company iff I thynke it be for yow to be on I shall nott fforgeet yow.

It'm thys daye the Mat' by twyen Mestresse Anne Haulte
and

L E T T E R LXX.

To John Paston, Esquire, at Norwich, in haste.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet, that yesterday began the great Council, to which all the Estates of the Land shall come to, but if [*unless*] it be for great and reasonable excuses; and I suppose the chief cause of this Assembly is, to commune what is best to do, now upon the great change by the Death of the Duke of Burgundy, and for the keeping of Calais, and the Marches, and for the preservation of the Amities taken lately, as well with France as now with the Members of Flanders; whereto I doubt not there shall be in all haste both the Dukes of Clarence, and Gloucester, whereof I would that my brother Edmund wist [*knew*].

Item, I feel but little effect in the labour of W. Alyngton, nevertheless I deem it is not for you, she shall not pass 200 Marks, as far as I can understand apart.

Item, I will not forget you otherwise.

Item, it is so that this day I hear great likelihood, that my Lord Hastyngs shall hastily go to Calais with great Company; if I think it be for you [*for your advantage*] to be one, I shall not forget you.

Item, this day the matter between Mrs. Anne Haulte and me
hath

and me hathe been soor broken bothe to y^e ¹ Cardinall to my Lorde ² Chamb'leyn and to my selffe and I am in goode hope when I heer and knowe moor I shall fende yow worde.

It femythe y^t the ³ worlde is alle qwaveryng it will reboyle somwher so y^t I deme yonge men shall be cheryfshyd take yowr hert to yow. I ffeer y^t I can nott be excusyd but y^t I shall fforthe w^t my Lorde Hastyngs ovyr y^e See butt I shall fende yow worde in haft and iff I goo I hope nott to tary longe.

It' to my Brother Edmōd. I am like to speke to Mestresse Dyxon in haft and som deme y^t y^r shall be condyffendyd y^t iff E. P. come to London y^t hys costs shall be payed ffor.

I shall hastely fende yow worde off moor thyngs.

Wretyn at London y^e xiiij day off Feu'er A^o. E. iiij^{ti} xvj. y^e ffryday a for ffastyngong.

⁴John Paston, R.

12 by 5 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The Politicians of these times, we here see, looked upon the Death of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, as an Event of great importance to all Europe.

He was dismounted from his horse, and slain in a battle fought on the 5th of January, 1476, before Nancy, the capital City of Lorrain, between his Forces and those of Renate, Duke of Lorrain.

He was fond of state and magnificence, and rather an ambitious than a prudent Prince. He reigned upwards of nine years, and died at about the age of forty five.

A C C

hath been foor [*in a fure manner*] broken both to the ¹ Cardinal, to my Lord ² Chamberlain, and to myfelf, and I am in good hope; when I hear and know more, I fhall fend you word.

It feemeth that the ³ World is all quavering, it will reboil fomewhere, fo that I deem young men fhall be cherifhed, take your heart to you [*that is, be of good courage*]; I fear that I cannot be excufed, but that I fhall forth with my Lord Haftings over the Sea, but I fhall fend you word in hafte, and if I go, I hope not to tarry long.

Item, to my brother Edmund.

I am like to fpeak with Miftrefs Dixon in hafte, and fome deem that there fhall be condefcended, that if E. P. [*Edmund Paston*] come to London that his cofts fhall be paid for.

I fhall haftily fend you word of more things.

Written at London, the 14th day of February, in the 16th year of Edward IV. the Friday afore Fastingong [*Fasting-going, i. e. Lent.*]

⁴ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Friday, 14th of February,
1476, 16 E. IV.

¹ Thomas Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, was raifed to the dignity of a Cardinal, by the Pope in 1464.

² William, Lord Haftyns. Though this important bufinefs between Sir John Paston and Mrs. Anne Hault, has been fo often mentioned, it has never been fo clearly ftated as to be exactly afcertained.

³ This part of the Letter feems to hint not only at foreign Commotions, but at internal diffenfions at home.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. iv. N^o 9.

L E T T E R LXXI.

To my wurschypfull Cosyne John^r Paston Be this bill delyu^ryd, &c.

COSYN I recomande me un to yowe Thankyng yowe hertely for the grette chere that ye made me and all my Folkys the last tyme y^t I was at Norwych. And ye p^rmysyd me y^t ye wold neu^r breke the mat^r to ² M^rgrery unto suche tyme as ye and I were at a point. But ye have made hyr suche Advokett for yowe y^t I may neu^r have Rest nyght ner Day for callyng and cryeng uppon to brynge the saide mat^r to effecte, &c.

And Cosyn uppon fryday is Sent ³ Volentynes Day and eu^ry Brydde chesyth hym a make and yf it lyke yowe to com^r on^r thursday at nyght and so p^rvey yowe y^t ye may abyde y^r tyll monday I trusty to God y^t ye schall so speke to myn husband and I schall prey y^t we schall bryng the mat^r to a conclusyon, &c.

For Cosyn it is but a sympill oke y^t cut down at the first stroke

This is a Letter from Lady Brews, the Mother of the Gentlewoman, to whom John Paston was desirous of paying his Addresses, and whom he married. We here see that the custom of choosng Valentines was a sport practised in the houses of the gentry at this time.

ffor

L E T T E R LXXI.

To my worshipful Cousin John : Paston, Be this Bill delivered, &c.

C O U S I N, I recommend me unto you, Thanking you heartily for the great cheer ye made me, and all my Folks, the last time that I was at Norwich; and ye promised me, that ye would never break the matter to ² Margery unto such time, as ye and I were at a point. But ye have made her such (*an*) Advocate for you, that I may never have rest night nor day, for calling and crying upon to bring the said matter to effect, &c.

And Cousin, upon Friday is Saint ³ Valentine's day, and every Bird chuseth him a Make [*Mate*]; and if it like you to come on Thursday at night, and so purvey you, that ye may abide there till Monday, I trust to God, that ye shall so speak to mine husband; and I shall pray, that we shall bring the matter to a conclusion, &c.

For, Cousin, "it is but a simple Oak,
"That's cut down at the first stroke,"

¹ John Paston was the next Brother to Sir John Paston, Knight, and his Heir in 1479. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk, &c. in 1485, created a Knight Banneret in 1487, and died in 1503.

² Margery, Daughter of Sir Thomas and Elizabeth Brews, of Stinton Hall, in Salle.

³ 14th of February.—Brydde, Bird.—Make, Match or Mate.

ffor ye will be refonabill I trust to God which hafe yowe eu'
in hys m'cyfull kepyng, &c.

* Be yowr Cofyn Dame ⁵ Elizabeth Brews,

oy'wes schall be called be Godds gr^{ce}.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{2}$.

* These two last lines seem intended to rhyme.

LETTER LXXXII.

*Unto my Ryght welebelovyd Voluntaryn John Paston Squyer be
y^r bill delyu'ed, &c.*

RYGH^T reu'ent and wurschypfull and my ryght welebe-
loved Voluntaryne I recomande me unto yowe ffull hertely
defyryng to her' of yowr welefare which I besече almyghty
God long for to p'f've un to hys plesur and yowr herts desyr'
And yf it please yowe to her' of my welefar I am not in good
heele of body nor of herte nor schall be tyll I her ffrom yowe ffor
y^r wottys no creatur' what peyn y^e I endur' and for to be deede
I dar' it not dyscur.' And my Lady my mod' hath labored
y^e mat' to my ffadur full delygently but sche can no mor gete
yen ye knowe of for y^e which God knowyth I am full sory
But

for ye will be reasonable I trust to God, which have you ever in his merciful keeping, &c.

⁴ By your Cousin Dame ⁵ ELIZABETH BREWS,

otherwise shall be called by God's Grace.

Between the 8th and 14th of February,

1476-7, 16 E. IV.

⁵ Elizabeth Brews, was a Daughter of Sir Giles, and Sister and heir of Sir Gilbert Debenham; she seems very desirous of the match, and wishes to call him not only her Cousin but Son, as she plainly intimates in her Subscription to this Letter. Pl. v. N^o 26.

L E T T E R LXXII.

*Unto my right well beloved Valentine, John Paston, Esquire, be
this Bill delivered, &c.*

RIGHT reverend and worshipful, and my right well beloved Valentine, I recommend me unto you, full heartily desiring to hear of your welfare, which I beseech Almighty God long for to preserve unto his pleasure, and your heart's desire.

And if it please you to hear of my welfare, I am not in good heele [*health*] of body, nor of heart, nor shall be till I hear from you;

For there wottys [*knows*] no creature what pain that I endure,
And for to be dead [*for my life*], I dare it not dyscur' [*discover*].

And my Lady my Mother hath laboured the matter to my father full diligently, but she can no more get than ye know of, for the which God knoweth I am full sorry. But if that ye

But yf that ye losse me as I tryfte verely that ye do ye will not leffe me y^rfor, for if y^t ye hade not halfe y^e lyvelode y^t ye hafe for to do y^e gretteft labur y^t any woma' on lyve myght I wold not forsake yowe. And yf ye cōmande me to kepe me true whereu' I go, I wyfe I will do all my myght yowe to love and neu' no mo. And yf my freends fay y^t I do amys yei fchal not me let so for to do myn' herte me bydds eu' mor' to love yowe truly ou' all erthely thing and yf yei be neu' so wroth I tryft it fchal be bett' in tyme cōmyng.

No mor' to yowe at this tyme but the Holy Trinite hafe yowe in kepyng And I besech yowe y^t this bill be not feyn of non' erthely creatur safe only yo^r Selffe, &c. And thys lett' was indyte at Topcroft w^t full hevy herte, &c.

By your own,

Margery Brews.

12 by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

We have in this letter the genuine dictates of the heart of a young Lady deeply in love, and fearing that her father will not give her such a fortune on her marriage, as the Gentleman, who paid his addresses to her, expected. She therefore fears the continuance of his affection, but assures him of hers.

CCC-

love me, as I trust verily that ye do, ye will not leave me therefore; for if that ye had not half the livelihood that ye have, for to do the greatest labour that any woman alive might, I would not forsake you.

And if ye command me to keep me true wherever I go,
I wis I will do all my might you to love, and never no mo.

And if my friends say, that I do amis,

They shall not me let so for to do,

Mine heart me bids evermore to love you,

Truly over all earthly thing,

And if they be never so wrath,

I trust it shall be better in time coming.

No more to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in keeping; and I beseech you that this bill be not seen of none earthly Creature save only yourself, &c.

And this Letter was endited at Topcroft, with full heavy heart, &c.

By your own,

MARGERY BREWS.

Topcroft,
February, 1476-7,
16 E. IV.

Some parts of the letter seem intended for verse, as the lines, though unequal, rhyme. I have written them, in the modernized letter so that the rhymes end the lines, though perhaps I am wrong.

The lady appears conscious that she has opened her heart in the letter, and with a becoming modesty conjures J. Paston, that it may "be seyn of non' erthely Creatur save only himself." Pl. VI. N^o 27.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

*To my Ryght Welebelovyd Cosyn John Paston Swayer be this
Lett' delyu'yd, &c.*

RYGH T wurschypfull and welebelovyd Volentyne in my
moste umble wyse I recōmande me un to yowe, &c. and
hertely I thanke yowe for y^e Lettur whech that ye sende me be
John Bekarton wherby I undyrstonde and knowe y^t ye be
purposyd to com' to Topcroft in schorte tyme and w'owte any
erand or mat' but only to hafe a conclusyon of y^e mat' betwyx
my fad^r and yowe I wolde be most glad of any creatur on lyve
so yat the mat' myght growe to effect And ther as ye say and
ye com' and fynde y^e mat' no mor' towards you yen ye dyd
afortyme ye wold no mor' put my fad^r and my Lady my mod^r
to no cost ner beseneffe for y^t cause a good wyle aftur weche
causyth myn' herte to be full hevy and yf y^t ye com' and the
mater take to non' effecte yen schuld I be meche mor sory and
full of hevynesse.

And as for my selfe I hafe don' and undyrstond in the mat' y^t
I can or may as good knowyth And I let yowe pleynty undyr-

J. Paston seems by this Letter to have answered the last, but not to her satisfaction, respecting his being content to take her with the fortune her father proposed to give on her marriage. She acknowledges the pleasure it would give her to find that he would marry her with the fortune her father had fixed, and with great sensibility requests him, if he cannot acquiesce, not to come to Topcroft, but to let matters remain as they were.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

To my Right Well beloved Cousin John Paston, Esquire, be this Letter delivered, &c.

RIGHT worshipful and well beloved Valentine, in my most humble wife, I recommend me unto you, &c. And heartily I thank you for the Letter, which that ye send me by John Beckerton, whereby I understand and know, that ye be purposed to come to Topcroft in short time, and without any errand or matter, but only to have a conclusion of the matter betwixt my father and you; I would be most glad of any Creature alive, so that the matter might grow to effect. And thereas [*whereas*] ye say, and [*if*] ye come and find the matter no more towards you than ye did aforetime, ye would no more put my Father and my Lady my Mother to no cost nor business, for that cause a good while after, which causeth my heart to be full heavy; and if that ye come, and the matter take to none effect, then should I be much more sorry, and full of heaviness.

And as for myself I have done, and understand in the matter that I can or may, as God knoweth; and I let you plainly

The Letter, at the same time that it acknowledges her regard for J. Paston, shews that she had a proper attention to her own consequence, and her father's determination. Pl. vi. N^o 27. Pl. xiv. N^o 25.

under-

stand y^t my fad^r wyll no mor money parte w^t all in that behalfe but an C^{li} and l marke whech is ryght far fro the Acomplyshment of yowr desyre.

Wherefore yf y^t ye cowde be content w^t y^t good and my por p^rsonne I wold be y^e meryest mayden on grounde And yf ye thynke not yowr selffe so satysfied or y^t ye myght hafe mech mor good as I hafe undyrstonde be yowe afor good trewe and lovyng volentyne y^t ye take no such labur uppon yowe as to com^r mor^r for y^t mat^r. But let is passe and neu^r mor^r to be spokyn of as I may be yowr trewe lou^r and bedewoma^r duryng my lyfe.

No more un to yowe at thys tyme but Almyghty J^h's p^rf^rve yowe bothe body and fowle, &c.

Be yo^r. Voluntyne,

Margery Brews.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER LXXIII.

*Un to my Ryght Wurschypfull Maist^r John Paston Swhyer be
this bill deliu^ded, &c.*

RYGH^T Wurschypfull Sr. I recomande me un to yowe, lettyng yowe knowe as for the Yonge Gentylwoma^r sche owyth yowe hyr good herte and love as I knowe be y^e comynicacion y^t I hafe hade w^t hyr for y^e fame.

And

understand, that my father will no more money part withal in that behalf, but an 100*l.* and 50 marks (33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) which is right far from the accomplishment of your desire.

Wherefore, if that ye could be content with that Good, and my poor Person, I would be the merriest maiden on ground; and if ye think not yourself so satisfied, or that ye might have much more Good, as I have understood by you afore; good, true, and loving Valentine, that ye take no such labour upon you, as to come more for that matter, But let (*what*) is, pass, and never more to be spoken of, as I may be your true Lover and Beadwoman during my life.

No more unto you at this time, but Almighty Jesu preserve you both body and soul, &c.

By your Valentine,

MARGERY BREWS.

Topcroft, 1476-7.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

*Unto my right worshipful Master, John Paston, Esquire, be
this bill delivered, &c.*

RIGHT worshipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, letting you know, as for the young Gentlewoman, she oweth you her good heart and love; as I know by the communication that I have had with her for the same.

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F f

And

And Sr. ye knowe what my Maistr and my Lady hath p'ferred w^t hyr CC merke. And I dar sey y^t hyr chambr and arey-ment schall be worthe C merk and I harde my Lady sey y^t and the case required both ye and sche schuld hafe yowr borde w^t my Lady iij yer afr.

And I undrstand by my Lady y^t sche wold y^t ye schuld labur y^t mat' to my Maistr for it schuld be the bettr.

And I harde my Lady sey y^t it was a febill oke y^t was kit down at the first stroke.

And ye be beholdyng un to my Lady for hyr good wurde for sche hath neu' preysyd yowe to mech.*

Sr. lyke as I p'mysyd yowe I am yowr mā and my good will ye schall hafe in worde and dede, &c.

And Jhs hafe yowe in hys m'cyfull kepyng, &c.

We par man,

Thomas Kela.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.

This Letter seems written by a common Friend of both the parties, who appears solicitous for the marriage taking effect. Pl. vi. N^o 28.

He informs J. Paston that in addition to the fortune intended to be given by Sir Thomas Brews, the Furniture of her Chamber and her Apparel should amount to the sum of 100 marks, or 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

And he hints, as from Lady Brews, that they should be entertained at her Table for three years after their marriage.

And Sir, ye know what my Master and my Lady hath prof-
ferred with her 200 Marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and I dare say, that
her Chamber and Arayment [*Apparel*] shall be worth 100 Marks
(66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) And I heard my Lady say, that and [*if*] the case
required, both ye and she should have your board with my Lady
three years after.

And I understand by my Lady, that she would that ye should
labour the matter to my Master, for it should be the better.

And I heard my Lady say,

“ That it was a feeble Oak,

“ That was cut down at the first stroke.”

And ye be beholden unto my Lady for her good word, for
she hath never praised you too much.*

Sir, like as I promised you, I am your man, and my good
will ye shall have in word and deed, &c.

And Jesu have you in his merciful keeping, &c.

By your man,

THOMAS KELA.

February, 1476-7.
16 E. IV.

At the bottom of the Original Letter is written by J. Paston——“ brought by Will^m
“ Chele.”

* That is, deservedly praised you ; for though she hath praised you much, her praise is
not above your merit.

F f 2

LET-

L E T T E R LXXII.

To my Ryght worchepfull Modyr Margaret Paston.

RYGH T worchepfull Modyr aftyr all dwtes of recōmendacyon in as humble wyse as I can I beseche yow of yor dayly blyffyg Modyr please yt yow to wett that the cause that Dam' Elizabeth Brews desyreth to mete w^t yow at Norwyche and not at Langley as I apoyntyd w^t yow at my last beīg at Mawtby is by my meanys, for my brodyr Thomas Jermyn whyche knowyth nought of the mate telyth me that the causey or ye can com'e to Bokenh'm fery is so over flowyn that ther is no man that may on ethe passe it though he be ryght well horsyd, whyche is no mete wey for yow to passe over God defend it, but all thyngs rekynynd it shalbe lesse cost to yow to be at Norwyche as for a day or tweyn and passe not then to mete at Langly wher every thyng is dere and your horse may be sent hom' ayen the same wednyfday.

Modyr I beseche yow for dyvers causys that my Syft' Anne may come w^t yow to Norwyche, Modyr the mater is in a resonable good wey and I trust w^t Gods mercy and w^t yo^r good help that it shall take effect bettyr to myn avūtage then I

We find by this Letter that J. Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 12.) was as desirous of having all obstacles to the match removed, as the Lady could be, and now writes from the house where she was, and to which I suppose he went on the receipt of her last letter.

told

L E T T E R LXXV.

To my right worshipful Mother Margaret Paston.

RIGHT worshipful Mother, after all duties of recommendation, in as humble wise as I can, I beseech you of your daily blessing. Mother, please it you to weet, that the cause that Dame Elizabeth Brews desireth to meet with you at Norwich, and not at Langley, as I appointed with you at my last being at Mawtby, is my by means, for my brother Thomas Jermyn, which knoweth nought of the mate [*match*], telleth me, that the Causey ere ye can come to Bokenham Ferry is so overflowed that there is no man that may an ethe [*scarcely*] pass it, though he be right well horsed; which is no meet way for you to pass over, God defend [*forbid*] it. But all things reckoned, it shall be less cost to you to be at Norwich, as for a day or tweyn and pass not, than to meet at Langley, where every thing is dear; and your horse may be sent home again the same Wednesday.

Mother, I beseech you for diverse causes, that my Sister Anne may come with you to Norwich; Mother, the matter is in a reasonable good way, and I trust with God's mercy, and with your good help, that it shall take effect better to mine ad-

He takes great pains to explain the reason for the meeting at Norwich to have been fixed by his desire, fearing his Mother might have been displeased with any alteration in the original plan.

John Cooke was Mayor of Norwich in 1484.

vantage

told yow of at Mawtby for I trow ther is not a kynder woman leveīg then I shall have to my Modyr in lawe if the mater take nor yet a kynder fadyr in lawe then I shall have though he be hard to me as yett, all the cyrcumstancys of the mater whyche I trust to tell yow at yo^r comyng to Norwyche coud not be wretyn in iij levys of paper and ye know my lewd hed well I nough I may not wryght longe wherffor I ffery over all thyngs tyll I may awayte on yow my selff I shall do tonne in to yo^r place a doseyne ale and bred acordyng ayenst wednyfday if Syme myght be forborn it wer well don' that he war at Norwyche on wednyfday in the mornyng at markett.

Dam' Elizabeth Brewse shall lye at Jon Cookys if it myght please yow I wold be glad that she myght dyne in yo^r howse on thurfsday for ther shold ye have most secret talkyng and Modyr at the reu'ence of God beware that ye be so p'veyd for that ye take no cold by the wey towards Norwyche for it is the most p'aylous marche that ever was feyn by eny manys dayes that now lyveth and I prey to Jhu p'serve yow and yours.

Wretyn at Topcroft the viij day of Marche.

Yo^r Sone and humbyll Seru'nt,

A. P.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

LCC.

vantage than I told you of at Mawtby ; for I trow [*believe*] there is not a kinder woman living than I shall have to my Mother in law, if the matter take, nor yet a kinder Father in law than I shall have, though he be hard to me as yet.

All the circumstances of the matter, which I trust to tell you at your coming to Norwich, could not be written in three leaves of paper, and ye know my lewd [*poor*] head well enough, I may not write long, wherefore I fery over [*defer*] all things till I may await on you myself. I shall do tonnen [*cause to be tunned*] into your place a dozen Ale, and Bread according, against Wednesday. If Sym might be forborn [*spared*] it were well done, that he were at Norwich on Wednesday in the morning at market. Dame Elizabeth Brews shall lie at John Cook's ; if it might please you, I would be glad that she might dine in your house on Thursday, for there should you have most secret talking.

And Mother, at the reverence of God, beware that ye be so purveyed for, that ye take no cold by the way towards Norwich, for it is the most perilous March that ever was seen by any man's days that now liveth ; and I pray to Jesu preserve you and yours.

Written at Topcroft the 8th day of March.

Your Son and humble Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

Topcroft,
Saturday, 8th of March,
1476-7, 17 E. IV.

L E T-

L E T T E R L I N E.

*To my Ryght Wurschypfull Cosyn Sr. Jhon Paston knyght be
this Lett' delyu'ed, &c.*

RYGH T wurschypfull and my hertely welebelovyd Cosyn
I recōmande me unto yowe desyring to her' of yowr
welefar which I pray God may be as cōtynuall good as I wolde
habe myn own and Cosyn the cause of my wryting un to
yow at thys tyme is I fele wele be my Cosyn John yowr
brod^r y^t ye habe undyrstondyng of a mat' which is in comyni-
cacyon tochyng a maryage w^t Godds g'ce to be concluded be-
twyxx my faide Cosyn yowr brod^r and my doght^a M'gery wheche
is far cōmonyd and not yyt cōcluded ner noght schall ner
may be tyll I habe answer from yowe agayn of yowr good
will and asent to the seid mater and also of the obligacyon
weche y^t I sende yowe herewith for Cosyn I wold be sory to se
owther my Cosyn yowr brod^r or my Doghtr dryvyn to leve
so meane a lyff as yei schuld do yf the vj^{xx} li. schuld be payde
of ther maryage money.

And Cosyn I habe takyn my selfe so ner' in levying of this
vj^{xx} li. y^t wher as I hade layde upp an C. li. for the mary-

This Letter, I suppose, accompanied one from J. Paston, in which the exact terms were specified, to his brother Sir John. Sir Thomas Brews seemed to expect that Sir John Paston would likewise do something for his brother on this occasion.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

*To my right worshipful Cousin Sir John Paston, Knight, be
this Letter delivered, &c.*

RIGHT worshipful, and my heartily well beloved Cousin,
I recommend me unto you, desiring to hear of your
welfare, which I pray God may be as continually good as
I would have mine own; and Cousin, the cause of my writing
unto you, at this time, is I feel [*perceive*] well by my Cousin
John Paston your Brother, that ye have understanding of a
matter, which is in communication touching a Marriage, with
God's Grace, to be concluded betwixt my said Cousin your
Brother, and my Daughter Margery, which is far communed,
and not yet concluded, nor neither shall nor may be, till I
have answer from you again of your good will and assent to the
said matter; and also of the obligation which that I send you
herewith; for Cousin I would be sorry to see either my Cousin
your brother, or my Daughter, driven to live so mean a life
as they should do, if the fix score pounds should be paid (*out*) of
their marriage money; and Cousin, I have taken myself so
near in leaving of [*parting with*] this said fix score pounds,
that whereas I had laid up an iool. for the marriage of a

Sir Thomas Brewse lived at Stinton-hall, in the parish of Salle, and on the death of
Robert Clifton, &c. came into possession of an Estate in Topcroft: he died in 1482.
Pl. v. N^o 25.

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G g

younger

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

age of a yong' doght' of myn I hafe nowe lent y^e faide C li. and xx li. ou' that to my Cofyn yowr brod' to be paide ageyn be fuche esy days as y^e obligacyon weche I sende yowe herwyth specyfyes and Cofyn I wer' ryght lothe to be stowe so mech uppon on' doght' y^t the oy^r her Sufters schuld far the wars wherfor Cofyn yf ye wyll y^t thys mat' schall take effect undyr fuche forme as my Cofyn yowr brod' hath wretyn unto yowe I pray yowe put y^to yowr good wylle and fū of yowr coste as I hafe done of myn mor' largely yen eu' I purpose to do to any tweyn of hyr Sufters as God knowyth myn Entent whom I besech to send yowe yowr levest herts desyr.

Wretyn at Topcroft the viij day of March, &c.

Be yo^r Cofyn,

Thomas Brews, Knight.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{4}$.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

To Mast' Sir John Paston be ths Lett' delyverid in Calis.

HONWRE and Joye be to yow my ryght gode Mast' and most assured brother letyng yow know that al yowre welwillers and f'vaunts in these p'tyes that I know fare well
and

younger Daughter of mine, I have now lent the said 100*l.* and 20*l.* over that, to my Cousin your Brother, to be paid again by such easy days as the obligation, which I send you herewith, specifies.

And Cousin, I were right loath to bestow so much upon one daughter, that the other her Sisters should fare the worse; wherefore, Cousin, if ye will that this matter shall take effect under such form as my Cousin your brother hath written unto you, I pray you put thereto your good will, and some of your Cost, as I have done of mine more largely than ever I purpose to do to any two of her Sisters, as God knoweth mine intent, whom I beseech to send you your levest [*dearest*] heart's desire.

Written at Topcroft, the 8th day of March, &c.

By your Cousin,

THOMAS BREWS, Knight.

Topcroft,
Saturday, 8th of March,
1476, 17 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

To Master Sir John Paston, be this Letter delivered in Calais.

HONOUR and Joy be to you, my right good Master, and most assured Brother, letting you know that all your Wellwillers and Servants, in these parts, that I know, fare well,

G g 2

and

and bett' wold if they mowht here of yowre wellbeyng and forthw^t sum of yowre frenche and borgoyne tidyngs ffor we in these p'tyes be in grete drede lest the french Kyng w^t sum assaults shuld in eny wise distourbe yow of yo^r. soft fote and fewre slepys but as yet we no thyng can here that he so disposeth h^y.

Mary we have herd sey that the Frowys of Broggys w^t there hye cappes have gyven sum of yow grete clappys and that the fete of her armys do^yg is such that they smyte al at the mowthe and at the grete ende of the thyeh but in faith we care not for yow for we know well that ye be gode ynowh at defence but we here sey that they be of such corage that they gyve yow moo strokys than ye do to thē and that they strike forer than ye also but I thynk that the english Ladyes and Jentylwomē and the pore also can do as well as they and lyst not to lerne of them no thyng and therefor we drede lest ther hye corages shuld meve them to make yow warre also; but God defend for by my trowth than have ye much to do for ht were bett' and more ese for to labor iij or fowre dayes wt mattokks and pykeifys to over turne yo^r sande hills as we here faye ye do ryht wurshipfully than only one day to endure theyre fers encountrys so as ye myht owther gete or save yo^r wurshippons by, and loke that ye trust to have no

Under the Direction of this Letter, and in a hand of the time (I believe in Sir John Paston's hand) is written "Jon Pympe," "xvj die Mar' A^o. E. 4. 17." (16th day of March, 17 E. IV.) being the date when the Letter was received.

I have given this Letter merely as a specimen of the humour of the time, which, though indelicate, may I fear be matched by many a modern correspondence.

Some Amour seems to be couched under the Simile of the Sparrow, the Barley, and the Door, &c.

rescow

and better would, if they might hear of your well being, and forthwith some of your French and Burgundy tidings; for we in these parts be in great dread lest the French King with some assaults, should in any wise disturb you of your soft, sote [*sweet*], and sure sleeps, but as yet we nothing can hear that he so disposeth him.

Marry we have heard say, that the Frows [*Women*] of Bruges, with their high Caps, have given some of you great claps; and that the feat of their arms doing is such, that they smite all at the mouth, but in faith we care not for you, for we know well that ye be good enough at defence; but we hear say, that they be of such courage, that they give you more strokes than ye do them, and that they strike surer than ye also; but I think that the English Ladies, and Gentlewomen, and the Poor also, can do as well as they, and list [*desire*] not to learn of them nothing; and therefore we dread lest their high courages should move them to make you war also; but God defend, for by my truth then have ye much to do; for it were better and more ease for to labour three or four days with Mattocks and Pickaxes to overturn your Sand hills, as we hear say ye do right worshipfully, than only one day to endure their fierce encounters; so as ye might either get or save your worships by; and look that ye trust to

The latter part of this epistle shews us what were the qualities of a Horse at that time most esteemed.

The Writer was a Person of some consideration, as he was to have had Sir J. Paston's Lodgings in London, and was Cousin to Sir J. Scot, Deputy Governor of Calais. Pl. vi. N^o 29.

have

rescow of us for so God me helpe we have y nowh to do in these p'tyes w^t the same werrs. But in one thyng we preyse yowre sadnessys and discreconys ryht much that is in kepyng of yo^r trewse and pefe w^t the Kyng of Fraunce as the Kyng hath commaundid and a grete reson why for ht were to much for yow to have werre w^t all the world at onys ffor the werre a fore seid kepith yow blameles ffor every resonable mā wetyth well that ht is to much for eny pepyll levyng to do bothe at onys.

Syr as for the more p'ts off my thowht I praye yow recomaunde me un to yowr self prayyng yow that y may contynew in such case as yo^r godenes hath taken me of old and if ye lyst to send eny tydyngs or other thȳg to the partyes that were wont to warme theym by yo^r fyre in feith I shall do yo^r erand.

And as for Barley ht is of the same pryce that ht was wont to be of and is the most sure corne and best enduryng that may be, and Syr where that sumtyme was a lytyll hole in a wall is now a dore large ynowh and esy passage whereof ye were the deviser and have thank for yo^r labor of sum p'tyes but no thyng lastyth evyr. Y mene that y trow my passage shall hastily faile me and the dore shalbe shet up agayne, lesse than Fortun be agreable to have my counseile kept for not long ago makȳg my entre at that passage I saw a Sparow that useth those ewrys and I saw her sytt so stille that y cowde not endure but y must neds shote her and so God me help I smote her I trow evȳ to the hert and so I drede me lest owther the Barley
wyl

have no rescue of us, for so God me help, we have enough to do in these parts with the same wars.

But in one thing we praise your sadneffes [*wisdoms*] and discretions right much, that is, in keeping of your Truce and Peace, with the King of France, as the King hath commanded; and a great reason why, for it were too much for you to have war with all the world at once, for the war aforefaid keepeth you blameless, for every reasonable man weeteth well, that it is too much for any people living to do both at once. Sir, as for the more part of my thought, I pray you recommend me unto yourself, praying you that I may continue in such case as your goodness hath taken me of old, and if ye list to send any tidings, or other thing to the parties that were wont to warm them by your fire, in faith I shall do your errand.

As for Barley, it is of the same price that it was wont to be of, and is the most sure corn, and best enduring that may be; and Sir, where that some time was a little Hole in a wall, is now a Door large enough and easy passage, whereof ye were the Deviser, and have thank for your labour of some parties, but nothing lasteth ever; I mean that I trow, my passage shall hastily fail me, and the Door shall be shut up again; less then [*unless*] Fortune be agreeable to have my Counsel kept; for not long ago making my entry at that passage, I saw a Sparrow that useth those eireys, and I saw her sit so still that I could not endure, but I must needs shoot her, and so God me help. I smote her I trow even to the heart; and so I dread me lest either the

Barley

wyll ete the Sparow or ells the Sparow wyll ete the Barley but as yet all is well but reson shewt me that ht must neds fayle by contynewauns lesse than I forsake bothe the Sparow and the Barley also.

Syr I have thank for the shew that I onys made of yow and daily gramercy, and ye theire prayer.

Syr forthemore I besече yow as ye wyll do eny thyng for me that ye se o day for my sake and for yo^r own plesure all the gode Hors in Caley and if ther be among theym eny pric horse of deds that is to sell in especiall that he be well trottyng of his owne corage w^t owte fort of sporis and also a* steryng hors if he be he is the bett^r I pray yow send me word of his color deds and corage and also of his pric^t feyn̄g as ye wold by h̄y yo^rself and also I wold have h̄y sumwhat large, not w^t the largest, but no smalle hors as more than a dowble hors prayng yow above all thyngs to have ths in remembrauns and that hastily as may be for ther is late p^rmysed me help to such an entent and I wote not how long ht shall endure and therfor I besече yow send me word by tyme.

I trow the Frenshe men have taken up al the gode hors in Pycardye and also they be wont to be hevy hors in labor and y^t I love not, but a hevy hors of flesh and lyht of corage y love well, for y love no hors that wyll al way be lene and slender like grehounds God kepe yow.

Yor.

J. Pympe.

Y pray yow to recomaund me to my cos̄y S^r. John Scot and all his in especiall mastres ^r Ben̄ygfeld.

8 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 11 $\frac{3}{4}$.

^r Margaret, Daughter of Sir John Scot, and wife to Edmund Bedingsfeld.

Barley will eat the Sparrow, or else the Sparrow will eat the Barley, but as yet all is well, but reason sheweth me, that it must needs fail by continuance, less then [*unless*] I forsake both the Sparrow and the Barley also.

Sir, I have thank for the shew that I once made of you and daily gramercy [*great thanks*], and ye their prayer.

Sir, farthermore I beseech you, as ye will do any thing for me, that ye see one day for my sake, and for your own pleasure, all the good Horse in Calais, and if there be amongst them any prized horse of deeds, that is to sell, in especial that he be well trotting of his own courage, without force of Spurs, and also a * steering horse if he be, he is the better; I pray you send me word of his colour, deeds, and courage, and also of his price, feigning as ye would buy him yourself, and also I would have him somewhat large, not with the largest; but no small horse, as [*2. no*] more than a double horse; praying you above all things to have this in remembrance, and that hastily as may be, for there is late promised me help to such an intent, and I wote not how long it shall endure; and therefore I beseech you send me word by time.

I trow the French men have taken up all the good horse in Picardy, and also they be wont to be heavy horse in labour, and that I love not, but a heavy horse of flesh, and light of courage I love well, for I love no horse that will always be lean and slender like Greyhounds. God keep you.

Your,

JOHN PYMPE.

(*Recd.*) Sunday, 16th of March,
1476, 17 E. IV.

I pray you to recommend me to my Cousin Sir John Scot and all his, in especial Mrs. ' Bedingfeld.

* Quære, a horse that obeys the rein.

VOL. II.

H h

LET-

L E T T E R * LXXIII.

To Mastr. Sr. John Paston knight be this Lettr delyvered in Calis.

FRESH amoureuse sights of Cuntreys ferre and straunge
 Have all ¹ fordoone yo^r. old affeccōn
 In plesurys new yo^r hert dooth score and raunge
 So hye and ferre that like as the Fawcon
 Which is alofte tellith scorne to loke a down
 On hym that wont was her feders to pyke and ² ymye
 Ryht so forgoty ye have yo^r pore pympe.

That wrytith fendith and wisshith alday yo^r wele
 More than his owne but ye ne here ne fe
 Ne fey ne fend and evyr I write and sele
 In p^rfe and ryme as well as ht will be
 Sum evyll tong I trow myfs sayeth of me
 And ells yo^r fast and feithfull frendelynes
 Ye thenk mysspent on such as I I gesse.

I have here given a Letter written to Sir John Paston in rhyme, as a specimen of the Poetry of the age.

It contains neither Anecdote, nor Information, except expressing the Writer's sorrow at the fear of having by his extravagances displeased Sir John—the Simile of the Falcon is happily introduced.

I wyll

L E T T E R * LXXVII.

*To Master Sir John Paston, Knight, be this Letter delivered
at Calais.*

FRESH amorous Sights of Countries far and strange
Have all ¹fordone your old affection;
In Pleasures new, your heart doth scour and range
So high and far; that like as the Falcon
Which is aloft, telleth [²*taketh*] scorn to look a down
On him that wont was her Feathers to pick and ²imp;
Right so forgotten ye have your poor Pymp.

That writeth, fendeth, and wisheth all day your weal
More than his own; but ye nor hear, nor see,
Nor say, nor fend, and ever I write and seal
In prose and rhyme, as well as it will be;
Some evil tongue I trow mis-faith of me
And else your fast and faithful friendliness
Ye think mis-spent on such as I, I gues.

By the Writer's inquiry concerning a Horse, and his referring back to his former Letters,
this appears to have been written in the latter end of March, or in April, 1477, 17 E. IV.
Pl. vi. N^o 29.

¹ Destroyed.

² A Term in Falconry, signifying the adding a piece to a feather in a hawk's wing.

H h 2

I will

I wyll abate my customable concourse
 To yow so ³ costuouse whan so evyr ye com agayn
 Which that I fele of reson by the course
 Of my p'ferid f'vyce hath made yow so unfayne
 For veryly the water of the Fowntayne
 W^t brede only forthw^t yowre presens
 Me shuld content much more than yo^r expense.

But ay deme I thus that Fortun hath hyryd yow
 For she but late of sorowys moo than many
 Hath rakyd un to myn hert an hepe more thā a moowe
 And wuld that ye shuld ley thereon on hye
 Yo^r hevy unkyndenes to make ht fast to lye
 And God know^t well ht cannot lōg lye there
 But ht wyll bryng me to the chirch bere.

Take ht awaye therefore y praye yow fayre
 For hardyly my hert beryth hevy y nowh
 For there is sorow at rest as in hys chayre
 Fixid so fast w^t hys p'kks rowh
 That in gode feith I wote not whā I lowh
 For Mast^r. Paston the thyng whereon my blisse
 Was holly sette is all fordoone I wyffe.

By yo^r. JOHN PYMPE, thes beyng
 the vj Lett^r. that I have send yow.

³ Expensive.

Alway

I will abate my customable concourse,
To you so 3 costuous, when so ever ye come again,
Which that I feel of reason, by the course
Of my proffered service, hath made you so unfain;
For verily the Water of the Fountain
With bread only forthwith your prefence
Me should content much more than your expence.

But aye deem I thus that Fortune hath hired you,
For she but late of sorrows more than many
Hath raked unto my heart an heap more than a mow,
And would that ye should lay thereon on high
Your heavy unkindness to make it fast to lie,
And God know't well it cannot long lie there
But it will bring me (*un*) to the church bier.

Take it away therefore I pray you fair,
For hardly my heart beareth heavy enough,
For there is Sorrow at rest as in his chair,
Fixed so fast with his pricks [*prickles*] rough,
That in good faith I wot not when I love,
For Master Paston the thing whereon my blifs
Was wholly set, is all fordone, I wis.

By your JOHN PYMPE.

this being the 6th Letter that I have sent you.

Always

Alway prayyng yow to remembr the hors that I have in every Lett^r wryten for, As thus that hit wuld plese yow to undrestond who hath the gentyllest hors in trottyng and steryng that is in Calis and if he be to sell to send me word of hys pris largeness and color hytt is told me that the Mast^r. Port^r hath a coragiouse ronyd hors and that he wuld putt h̄y away by cause he is daungerous in companye and of that I forc not so that he be not chorlish at a spore as plungyng and also I sett not by h̄ym but if he trotte h̄ye and gētilly No more but God kepe yow.

John Pumpe.

5 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 12.

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Ryght Worshypfull Moodr' Margret Paston.

PLEASE it yow to weete y^t I have receyvyd yowr Lett^r wherein is remembryd the gret hurte y^t by liklihod myght ffalle to my brother iff so be y^t thys matt^r betwyn hym and S^r. Thom's Brewses Doghtr' take nott effecte, wheroff I wolde be as fory as hym selffe reasonably and also y^e welthy and convenient marriage y^t scholde be iff it take effecte wheroff I wolde

Always praying you to remember the Horſe that I have in every Letter written for; as thus, that it would pleaſe you to underſtand who hath the gentleſt horſe in trotting and ſteering that is in Calais, and if he be to ſell, to ſend me word of his price, largeneſs, and colour.

It is told me, that the Maſter Porter hath a courageous roaned horſe, and that he would put him away becauſe he is dangerous in company, and of that I force [*care*] not, ſo that he be not churliſh at a ſpur, as plunging; and alſo I ſet not by him, but if [*unleſs*] he trot ſome what high and genteelly. No more, but God keep you.

Latter End of March, or April,

1477, 17 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

To my right Worſhipful Mother, Margaret Paſton.

PLEASE it you to weet, that I have received your Letter, wherein is remembered the great hurt, that by likelihood might fall to my brother, if ſo be that this matter between him, and Sir Thomas Brews's Daughter take not effect; whereof I would be as ſorry as himſelf reaſonably; and alſo the wealthy and convenient marriage, that ſhould be if it take effect;

I

whereof

wolde be as gladde as any man and ame bett' content nowe y^t he sholde have hyr than any other y^t evyr he was herto-ffoor abowte to have hadde confyderyd hyr persone hyr yowthe and the stok y^t she is comyn offe, y^e love on bothe fydes, y^e tendre ffavor y^t she is in w^t hyr ffadr and moodr, the kyndeneffe off hyr ffadr and moodr to hyr in dep'tyng w^t hyr, the ffavor also and goode conceyte y^t they have in my brother, The Worshypfull and vertuous dysposicōn off hyr ffadr and moodr whyche p'nostikyth y^t of lyklihod the Mayde sholde be vertuous and goode, all which concyderyd and the necessary relyffe y^t my brother most have, I mervayle the lesse y^t ye have dep'tyd and gevyn hym the man' off Sperham in such fforme as I have knowleche off by W. Gornay Lomner and Skypwyth and I ame ryght gladde to se in yow fuche kyndeneffe on to my brother as ye have doon to hym, and wolde by my trowthe lever than C li. y^t it weer ffee symple londe as it is entaylyd, whyche by liklyhood scholde prosper w^t hym and hys blode the bett' in tyme to come and sholde also neu' cause debate in ovr bloode in tyme to come whyche Godde dyffende ffor that weer onnaturell.

It'm another inconvenyence is, wher as I undrestande y^t the man' is gevyn to my brother and to hys wyff and to y^e issywe bytween them bygoten; Iff the case weer soo y^t he and she
hadde

In this Letter Sir John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) shows himself a kind and generous Brother, in permitting his Mother to give the Manor of Sparham, which appears to be entailed on him and his issue, to his younger Brother; and though he cannot consci-
entiously

whereof I would be as glad as any man; and am better content now, that he should have her, than any other, that ever he was heretofore about to have had, considered. Her Person, her Youth, and the stock that she is come of, the Love on both sides, the tender favour that she is in with her father and mother; the kindness of her father and mother to her in departing with her, the favour also, and good conceit that they have in my Brother, the worshipful and virtuous disposition of her father and mother, which prognosticateth that, of likelihood, the maid should be virtuous and good; all which considered, and the necessary relief that my Brother must have, I marvel the less, that ye have departed, and given him the manor of Sparham, in such form as I have knowledge of by W. Gornay, Lomner, and Skipwith; and I am right glad to see in you such kindness unto my Brother as ye have done to him; and would by my truth lever [*rather*] than an fool. that it were fee simple land, as it is intailed, which by likelihood should prosper with him and his blood the better in time to come, and should also never cause debate in our blood [*contention in our family*] in time to come, which God defend [*forbid*], for that were unnatural.

Item, another inconvenience is, whereas I understand that the manor is given to my Brother, and to his Wife, and to the Issue between them begotten; if the case were so, that he and

entiously permit the entail to be defeated, as the Will of the Dead by this means would not be performed, he very readily consents to enter into an engagement to debar himself from ever molesting his Brother or his Widow in their quiet possessions thereof.

hadde yffywe togedr a Dowtr or moo, and hys wyffe dyed and he married afftr another and hadde iffywe a Sone, y^t Sone sholde have noon londe and he beyng hys ffadres heyr, and ffor thenconvenyence y^t I have knowe let in ur in case lyke and yit enduryth in Kente by tweyn a Jentylman and his Suft', I wolde ye toke the advyce off yowr concell in thys poynt, and that y^t is past yow by wrightyng or by promise I deme verrely in yow y^t ye dyd it off kyndenesse and in eschywyng off a moor yll y^t myght befall.

It'm wher as it pleasfith yow that I sholde ratefye grawnt or cōferme the feyd gyfte on to my brother it is so y^t w^t myn honeste I may nott and ffor other cawfes, the Pope will suffre a thyng to be usyd but he will nott lycence nor grant it to be usyd nor don and soo I, my Brother John knowyth myn entent weel i now heer to ffor in this mat'. I will be ffownde to hym as kynde a brother as I may be.

It'm, iff it be soo y^t S^r. T. Brews and hys wyff thynke y^t I wolde troble my brother and hys wyff in the feid man' I can ffynde no meene to putte them in fywerte y^r off but iff it neede to be bownde in an obligacōn w^t a condicōn y^t I thalle nott trowble ner infet' them therin.

It' I thynke y^t she is made fywer i now in astate in the londe and that off Ryght I deme they shall make noone obstacles at my wryghtyng ffor I hadde neu' non' astate in the londe, ner I wolde nott y^t I had hadde.

No mor to yow at thys tyme, but Allmyghty God have
 2 yow

she had issue together a Daughter or more, and his wife died, and he married after another, and had issue a Son, that Son should have none land, and he being [*although he be*] his father's Heir, and for the inconvenience that I have known late in ure [*in practice*] in case like, and yet endureth in Kent, between a Gentleman and his Sister, I would ye took the advice of your counsel in this point, and that (*which*) is past you by writing or by promise, I deem verily in you, that ye did it of kindness, and in eschewing of a more [*a greater*] ill that might befall.

Item, whereas it pleaseth you that I should ratify, grant, and confirm the said gift unto my Brother, it is so, that with mine honesty I may not, and for other causes.

The Pope will suffer a thing to be used, but he will not licence nor grant it to be used nor done, and so I.

My Brother John knoweth mine intent well enough heretofore in this matter; I will be found to him as kind a Brother as I may be.

Item, if it be so that Sir Thomas Brews and his Wife think that I would trouble my Brother and his Wife in the said Manor, I can find no means to put them in surety thereof, but if it need, to be bound in an obligation with a condition that I shall not trouble nor infest [*infest*] them therein.

Item, I think that she is made sure enough in estate in the land, and that of right I deem they shall make none obstacles at my writing, for I had never none estate in the land, nor I would not that I had.

No more to you at this time, but Almighty God have you in keeping.

yow in kepyng. Wretyn at Caley's the xxviij daye of Marche
A^o. E. iiij. xvij^o.

By yowr Sone,

J. Paston, Esq.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER LXXII.

To John Paston Esquier.

RY G' worshipfull and hertely belovyd Brother, I recom-
aunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^t as by Pyrse Moody
when he was heer I hadde no leyser to sende āswer in wrygh-
tyng to yow and to my Cofyne Gurnaye off yowr lett^r'is. butt
ffor a conclusion ye shalle ffynde me to yow as kynde as I maye
be my concienſe and worship ſavyd, whiche when I ſpeke w^t
yow and them ye bothe ſhall weell undreſtande and I praye God
ſende yow as goode ſpeede in y^t mat' as I wolde ye hadde,
and as I hope ye ſhall have er thys lett' come to yow and I
praye God ſende yow yffye betwyne yow y^t maye be as
honorable as eu' was any off your Anceſtris and theris wheroff
I wolde be as gladde in man' as oft myn owne. Wherffor I
praye yow ſende me worde how ye doo and iff Godde ffortune
me

Written at Calais, the 28th day of March, in the 17th year of Edward IV.

By your Son,

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais,

Friday, 28th of March,

1477, 17 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

To John Paston, Esquire.

RIGHT worshipful and heartily beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that as by Peirse Moody, when he was here, I had no leifure to send answer in writing to you, and to my Cousin Gurney, of your Letters, but for a conclusion ye shall find me to you as kind as I may be, my conscience and worship faved, which, when I speak with you and them, ye both shall well understand and I pray God send you as good speed in that matter as I would ye had, and as I hope ye shall have ere this Letter come to you; and I pray God send you Issue between you, that may be as honourable as ever was any of your Ancestors and theirs, whereof I would be as glad in manner as of mine own; wherefore I pray you send me word how ye do, and if God fortune me to do well,

me to doo weell and be off any power, I woll be to S^r. Thomas Brewse and my Lady hys wyffe a verry Sone in lawe ffor yowr sake and take them as ye doo and doo ffor them as iff I weer in case like w^t them as ye bee. No moor but Jh'e have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys the xiiij daye off Aprill A^o. E. iiij. xvij^o.

As ffor tydyngs her the ffrenshe Kynge hathe gothen many off the towns off the Duk of Burgoyne as ¹ Seynt Quyntyns Abevyle Motrell and now off late he hathe goten ² Betoyne and Hedyng w^t the Castell ther whyche is on' off y^e ryallest Castells off the worlde and on Sunday at evyn the Ameralle off Fraunce leyde seege at Boloyne and thys daye it is feyde y^t y^e ffrenshe Kynge shalle com' thyddr and thys nyght it is feyde y^t ther was a Vyfion feyne abowte y^e walls of ³ Boloyne as it hadde ben a woman w^t a mervylowse lyght men deme y^t owr Lady ther will shewe hyrselff a Lover to y^t towne. God fforfende y^t it weer ffrenshe it weer worthe xl m^l li. y^t it wer Englyshe.

4 J. Paston, R.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

This Letter again assures John Paston of his brother's intended kindness to him, his Wife, and her Friends.

¹ St. Quintin, Abbeville, and Montreuil are all in the province of Picardy in France.

² Bethune and Hesden are in the province of Artois, in the French Netherlands.

CCC-

well, and be of any power, I will be to Sir Thomas Brewse, and my Lady his wife, a very Son-in-law for your sake, and take them as ye do, and do for them as if I were in case like with them as ye be.

No more, but Jesu have you in keeping.

Written at Calais, the 14th day of April, in the 17th year of Edward IV.

As for tidings here, the French King hath gotten many of the Towns of the Duke of Burgundy, as ¹ Saint Quintin's, Abbeville, Montreuil; and now of late he hath gotten ² Bethune and Hedynges with the Castle there, which is one of the royalest Castles of the world; and on Sunday at even the Admiral of France laid siege at Bologne; and this day it is said, that the French King shall come thither; and this night it is said, that there was a Vision seen about the Walls of ³ Bologne, as it had been a Woman with a marvellous light; men deem that our Lady there, will shew herself a Lover to that Town: God forefend [*forbid*] that it were French, it were worth 40,000*l.* that it were English.

⁴ JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais,
Monday, 14th of April,
1477, 17 E. IV.

Paper Mark,
French Arms,
and I. E. S.
Pl. XII. N^o 22.

³ This Town, on the English Channel, in the province of Picardy, in France, which Sir John esteems of such consequence, was taken by the English, in the reign of Henry VIII. but restored again to France, on a ransom of 300,000 Crowns.

The story of the Apparition shews the superstition of the age, which immediately ascribed it to the Care of our Lady, and as a sign of her protecting the place.

⁴ Autograph. Pl. IV. N^o 9.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXX.

To John Paston Esquier.

I Recomand me to yow letyng yow weete y^t I have spoken to ¹ Herry Colett and entretyd hym in my best wyse ffor yow soo y^t at y^e last he is agreyd to a resonable respyght ffor y^e xv li. y^t ye sholde have payd hym at Mydsom^r as he seyth and is gladde to do yow ease or plesyr in all y^t he maye and I tolde hym y^t ye wolde as I supposyd be heer at London herr nott long to and than he lokyth afftr y^t ye sholde com^r see hym ffor he is Sheryff and hathe a goodely hows.

It^r my Lady off ² Oxenfforth lokyth afftr yow and Arblast^r bothe.

My Lord off ³ Oxenfford is nott comen in to Inglonde y^t I can p^rceyve, and so y^e goode Lady hathe nede off helpe and councell howe y^t she shall doo.

No moor at thys tyme butt God have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn att London on Seynt Awdryes daye A^o. E. iiijth xvij^o.

Tydyngs butt y^t yist^r daye my Lady Marqueys off ⁴ Dorset whych is my Lady Hastyngs Dowtr hadyd Chylde a Sone.

¹ Sir Henry Colet was Lord Mayor of London, in 1486.

² Margaret, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury; she was during the imprisonment of her Lord in great distress.

³ John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was at this time a Prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy; what expectation there was of his coming into England at this time I know not.

L E T T E R LXXX.

To John Paston, Esquire.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I have spoken with ¹ Harry Colett, and entreated him in my best wife for you, so that at the last he is agreed to a reasonable respite for the 15l. that ye should have paid him at Midsummer, as he saith, and (*he*) is glad to do you ease or pleasure in all that he may; and I told him that ye would, as I supposed, be here at London, here not long to, and then he looketh after, that ye should come see him, for he is Sheriff, and hath a goodly house.

Item, my Lady of ² Oxford looketh after you and Arblaster both.

My Lord of ³ Oxford is not come into England that I can perceive, and so the good Lady hath need of help and counsel how that she shall do.

No more at this time, but God have you in keeping.

Written at London on Saint Audrey's [*Etheldreda's*] day, in the 17th year of Edward IV.

Tidings but [*only*] that yesterday my Lady Marchioness of ⁴ Dorset, which is my Lady Hastyngs's Daughter, had childed a Son.

⁴ Cecily, second Wife to Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, was Daughter and Heir of William Bonville, Lord Bonville and Harrington, by Katharine, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, who was now the Wife of Lord Hastyngs, Lord Chamberlain, and Governor of Calais.

It' my Lord Chamb'leyn is comyn hyddr ffro Caley's and redyn w^t y^e Kynge to Wyndeshor and y^e Kyng will be her' ageyn on mondaye.

5 I. B. B.

Autograph, Pl. IV. N^o 12.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER LXXXI.

Un to the Ryght Wurschepful Sr. John Paston knyght.

MAST' Paston after all dew recomandacōn and herty diffire to here of your good hele Plese yt you to wete, I have spoken w^t S^r John of Medilton as wel as I cowde and yt had ben for myself for his Hoby that ye diffired, and tolde hym he myght wel forbere hym now in as moche as Mastres Jane was ded, and that yt is a great cost for hym to kepe moo hors than he nedyth, and he answered me that he wold felle hym w^t good will, but ther shuld no man bie hym under ' x li. Flemesch, and I offered hym in your name x marke for he wold not here

We have in this Letter several Anecdotes of a public nature, relative to the wars in France, and particularly concerning the Hostilities committed by the French King on the Possessions of the Heiress of Burgundy.

of

Item, my Lord Chamberlain is come hither from Calais, and
(is) ridden with the King to Windfor, and the King will be
here again on Monday.

5 JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,

Monday, 23d of June,

1477, 17 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

Unto the Right Worshipful Sir John Paston, Knight.

MASTER Paston, after all due recommendation, and hearty
desire to hear of your good hele [*health*], please it you
to weet, I have spoken with Sir John of Middelton as well as
I could, and it had been for myself, for his Hobby that ye
desired, and told him he might well forbear him now in as much
as Mrs. Jane was dead, and that it is a great cost for him to
keep more Horse than he needeth; and he answered me, that
he would sell him with good will, but there should no man
buy him under ¹ 10l. Flemish; and I offered him in your name,

¹ Between 5 and 6l. English, and equal in value to upwards of 20l. at this present
time, apparently a great price for a Hobby.

of none other ambelyng horſe that ye myght geve hym therfore, And alſo my Lord diſſired to have bowte hym for the Lord *Schauntrell that is Cheff Capteyn of * Seynt Omers and he wold no leſſe lete my Lord have hym than x li. and ſo my Lord bowte another, and gave hym the ſeide Lord, for he thoughte this to dere, neu'theleſſe he wol not ſelle hym to no man under that mony that he ſette hym on, And ſo ye may bye your plefur in hym and ye leſt, for otherwyſe he wol not doo for you as I confeve.

And as for tydyngs in theyſe p'tyes, the Frenche Keng leyzth at Sege at * Seynt Omers on the on' ſide of the town a myle of, but he hath no gret Ordenaunce ther, and they of the town ſkyrmyſh w't them eu'y day, and kepe a paſſage halff a myle w't oute the town, And the French Keng hath brenned All the townys and fayre Abbeys that were that way aboute Seynt Omers, and alſo the Cornes weche ar there. And alſo as yt ys ſeide for ſerteyn the French Keng hath brenned ³ Caſſell, that ys myn hoold ⁴ Lady of Burgeynys Joynttor and all the countre there aboute, whereby ſhe hath loſt a gret part of her Lyvelod, and that is a ſherewed tokyn that he ⁵ menyth wel to the Keng howur Suffereygn Lord when he intendyth to diſtroye her.

Morou' Sr. Phylep de Crevekere hath takyn them that were in Fynys w't inne this iiij dayes to the noumbre of xiiij 'p'ſonys and the rem̄nt where fled, and he had them to the French

* Ponton de Santrailles. A Nobleman of this name was taken priſoner by the Duke of Bedford, before Beauvais, and was exchanged for Lord Talbot, when he was captured at the battle of Pataie.

² A City of the French Netherlands, about 18 miles S. E. from Calais, and a part of the Poſſeſſions of the Houſe of Burgundy.

10 Marks, for he would not hear of none other ambling Horſe, that ye might give him therefore.

And alſo my Lord deſired to have bought him for the Lord * Schauntrell that is chief Captain of Saint ² Omers; and he would (*for*) no leſs let my Lord have him than 10l. and ſo my Lord bought another, and gave him the ſaid Lord, for he thought this too dear; nevertheleſs he will not ſell him to no man under that money, that he ſet him on, and ſo ye may buy your pleaſure in him and ye liſt; for otherwiſe he will not do for you as I conceive.

And as for tidings in theſe parts, the French King lieth at ſiege at ² St. Omers, on the one ſide of the Town a mile off, but he hath no great Ordnance there; and they of the town ſkirmiſh with them every day, and keep a paſſage half a mile without the town; and the French King hath brenned [*burnt*] all the Towns, and fair Abbeys, that were that way about St. Omers, and alſo the Corns which are there.

And alſo, as it is ſaid for certain, the French King hath brenned ³ Caſſell, that is my old ⁴ Lady of Burgundy's Jointure, and all the Country thereabout, whereby ſhe hath loſt a great part of her livelihood; and that is a ſhrewd token that he ⁵ meaneth well to the King our Sovereign Lord, when he intendeth to deſtroy her.

Moreover Sir Philip de Creveker hath taken them that were in Fynes within this four days to the number of 14 perſons, and the remanent were fled, and he had them to the French King,

³ A Town ſituated about 10 miles N. E. of St. Omers.

⁴ Margaret, Siſter to Edward IV.

⁵ This ſeems to be ſpoken in irony.

and

Keng, and he hath brentte all the place, and pulled down the Towre and a part of the wall and difstroyed yt.

And as yt is feid yf the Fench Keng can not gete Seynt Omers that he intendyth to brenge his Armye thorwe theyfe Marchys into Flaundres, wherefore my Lord hath do brokyn all the paffages excep Newham bryge, weche is wached and the Turne Pyke fhette eu'y nyght. And, the feide French Keng w^t inne thefe iij dayes rayled gretely of my Lord to Tygyr Purfeūnt opynly byfore ij hundred of his Folks, wherefore yt ys thaught here that he wold feynde a quarell to fett upon thys town, yf he myght gete avntage, And as I underftonde the ⁶ Emp'o'ys Sone ys maryed at ⁷ Gaūte as this day, and ther cam w^t hym but iiij hundred horfe, and I can here of no moo that be comyng in ferteyn, and in mony he brēgyth w^t hym an hundred thowfand ⁸ Dokets, wheche is but a fmalle thyng in regard for that he hath to doo, wherefore I fere me fore that Flaundres will be loſt, And yf Seynt Omers be whonnyn all is gon in my conceyt, neu' the leſſe they fay there ſhuld come gret powere after the Emp'o'ys Son but I be leve yt not by cauſe they have ben ſo long of comyng.

And I pray you to recomaunde me unto Sr. Tyrry ⁹ Robfert and that yt pleſe you to lete hym knowe of your tydyngs and hour Lord have you in his kepyng.

⁶ Maximilian, Son of the Emperor Frederick, married Mary, Daughter and Heir of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy.—She was the richeſt Heireſs of her time, and had been promiſed by her Father to many Princes, and amongſt the number to this Prince, whom ſhe now choſe for herſelf.—She was about 19 years of age at the time of her marriage, in Auguſt 1477, and lived only five or ſix years after it.

and he hath brent all the place, and pulled down the Tower, and a part of the wall, and destroyed it.

And as it is said, if the French King cannot get St. Omers, that he intendeth to bring his Army through these Marches into Flanders, wherefore my Lord hath do broken [*caused to be broken*] all the passages, except Newham Bridge, which is watched, and the Turnpike shut every night.

And the said French King within these three days railed greatly of [*on*] my Lord to Tyger Pourfuivant, openly before two hundred of his Folks; wherefore it is thought here, that he would feign a quarrel to set upon this town, if he might get advantage.

And as I understand, the ⁶ Emperor's Son is married at ⁷ Ghent as this day; and there came with him but four hundred Horse, and I can hear of no more that be coming in certain; and in money he brought with him an hundred thousand ⁸ Ducats, which is but a small thing in regard for that he hath to do; wherefore I fear me sore, that Flanders will be lost; and if St. Omers be won, all is gone in my conceit; nevertheless they say there should come great power after the Emperor's Son, but I believe it not, because they have been so long of coming.

And I pray you to recommend me unto Sir Terry ⁹ Robsart, and that it please you to let him know of your tidings, and our Lord have you in his keeping.

⁷ A City of the Austrian Netherlands, and the capital of Flanders.

⁸ A Ducat of Gold is worth about 10s.—Of Silver, nearly 5s.

⁹ Sir Terry Robsart, knight, of Sidistern, in Norfolk, by the marriage of his Daughter Lucy, to Edward Walpole, Esq. became an Ancestor to the present Earl of Orford. He died in 1496.

At Calais the Sunday next after hour Lady the Assumption.

Your,

¹⁰ E. Bedyngfeld.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

¹⁰ Edmund Bedyngfeld married Margaret, Daughter of Sir John Scot, Comptroller of Calais, and was created a Knight of the Bath, at the Coronation of Richard III. He

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my ryth reu'ent and worscheful husband Jon Paston.

RYTH reu'ent and worscheful husbond I recomaūde me to yow desyryng hertyly to her' of yowr wylfar thankyng yow for y^e tokyn ye sent me be Edmūde Perys preying yow to wete y^t my modyr sent to my fadyr to London for a Goune cloth of ¹ Mustyrddevyllers to make of a Goune for me and he tolde my modyr and me wanne he was comme hom' y^t he cargeyt yow to beyit aftyr y^t he was come oute of London.

I pre yow if it be not bowt y^t ye wyl wechefaf to byit and fendyt hom' as sone as ye may for I have no Goune to werr yis wyntyr but my blak and my * grene a lyer and y^t is so comerus y^t I ham wery to weryt.

¹ This word occurs more than once in these Letters, but the meaning of it I cannot ascertain to my own satisfaction; though perhaps it refers to some place in France, where the Cloth was manufactured. The following, however, appears the most satisfactory explanation: Musterdevelers—Mustyrddevyllers, *Moitie*, or (as sometimes anciently and erroneously spelt) *Mestier de Velours*, French, a Half-Velvet; or *Mestis de Velours*, a Bastard-Velvet. *Mestoyant* is also an old French word, signifying *between both*. On the present occasion, a proper allowance must be made for the imperfections of female spelling, in an age of unsettled orthography.

As

At Calais, the Sunday next after the Assumption.

Your,

¹⁰ EDMUND BEDYNGFELD.

Calais,

Sunday, 17th of August,

1477, 17 E. IV.

He was highly in favour with Henry VII. who paid him a royal visit at Oxburgh, in Norfolk; which fine Seat he built.—He died in 1496. Pl. vi. N^o 30.

L E T T E R LXXXII.

To my right reverend and worshipful Husband, John Paston.

RI G H T reverend and worshipful Husband, I recommend me to you, desiring heartily to hear of your welfare, thanking you for the Token that ye sent me by Edmund Perys, praying you to weet that my Mother sent to my father to London for a Gown cloth of ^{*} Mustyrddevyllers to make of a Gown for me; and he told my Mother and me when he came home, that he charged you to buy it, after that he was come out of London.

I pray you, if it be not bought, that you will vouchsafe to buy it, and send it home as soon as ye may, for I have no gown to wear this winter but my black and my ^{*} green a lyer, and that is so cumbersome that I am weary to wear it.

^{*} Qu. Grenouilliere, Frog-colour.

As for y^e Gyrdyl y^t my fadyr be heftyt me I spake to hym yer of a lytyl befor he yede to London laft and he feyde to me y^t y^e faute was in yow y^t ye wolde not thynk yer uppe on to do makyt but I fopofe yt ys not fo he feydyt but for a fkeufacion. I pre yow yf ye der takyt uppe on yow y^t ye wyl weche faf to do makyt a yens ye come hom' for I hadde neu' mor nede yer of yan I have now for I ham waxfe fo fetys y^t I may not be *gyrte in no barre of no Gyrdyl, y^t I have but of on' Elizabet Peverel hath leye fek xv or xvj wekys of y^e Seyetyka but fche fent my modyr word be Kate yat fche fhuld come hedyr wanne God fent tyme yoow fche fhuld be crod in a barow.

Jon of Dam' was her' and my modyr dyskevwyrd me to hym and he feyed be hys trouth y^t he was not gladder of no thyng y^t he harde thys towlmonyth yan he was yer of.

I may no lēger leve be my crafte I am dyffceawyrd of alle men y^t fe me.

Of alle odyr thyngys y^t ye defeyreyd yat I fhuld fende yow word of I have fent yow word of in a lett' y^t I dede wryte on ouwyr² Ladyis day lafte was y^e holy trenyte have yow in hese kepyng.

Wretyn at Oxnade in ryth gret haft on y^e thrusday next before Seynt Tomas day.

I pre yow y^t ye wyl wer y^e 3 reyng w^t y^e emage of Seynt

² Conception of our Lady, 8th of December.

³ This Ring, bearing the Image of her favourite Saint, being worn by her husband as a remembrance, might be looked upon as a guardian to her in her then situation, and be a means of preserving her from any disagreeable accident.

Margrete

As for the Girdle that my father behested [*promised*] me, I spake to him thereof a little before he yed [*went*] to London last, and he said to me that the fault was in you, that ye would not think thereupon to do make it [*to have it made*], but I suppose that it is not so, he said it but for a skeufacion [*an excuse*]; I pray you, if ye dare take it upon you, that ye will vouchsafe to do make it [*to have it made*] against ye come home, for I had never more need thereof than I have now, for I have waxed so fetys [*prettily*] that I may not be * girded in no bar of no girdle, that I have but of one. Elizabeth Peverel hath been sick fifteen or sixteen weeks of the Sciatica, but she sent my Mother word by Kate, that she should come hither when God sent time, though she should be crowd [*wheeled*] in a barrow.

John of Dam was here, and my Mother discovered me to him, and he said by his truth, that he was not gladder of nothing that he heard this twelvemonth, than he was thereof.

I may no longer live by my craft [*cunning*], I am discovered of all men that see me.

Of all other things that ye desired that I should send you word of, I have sent you word of in a letter that I did write on ² Our Lady's day last was; the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Oxnead, in right great haste, on the Thursday next before Saint Thomas's day.

I pray you that ye will wear the ³ Ring with the Image of

Query, Was not this Letter written in the beginning of July, 1478, the Translation of St. Thomas being on the 7th, and the Visitation of our Lady on the 2d of July?

It will thus accord with Letter LXXXV.

Autograph. Pl. VII. N^o 7.

* The same very natural thought occurs in the ancient Ballad of Child Waters.

“ My girdle of gold that was too longe,

“ Is now too short for mee.”

See Percy's Collection, 3d edit. vol. III. p. 55.

Margrete y^t I sent yow for a rememrause tyl ye come hom'
ye have lefte me sweche a rememrause y^t makyth me to thynk
uppe on yow bothe day and nyth wanne I wold slepe.

Yours,

Margery Paston.

Paper Mark,
Crofs Keys,
Pl. XII. N^o 19.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my Ryght worschypfull Modre Margret Paston be thys delyu'ed.

PLEASE it yow to weete y^t wher as I entendyd to have
ben at home thys Mydsom' and p'posyd w^t yowr goode
helpe to have bygonne uppon my ffadrys tombe so y^t it myght
have ben endyd thys somyr, it is soo y^t ffor suche cawfys as
ar nowe bygunne by twyen my Lorde off Suff' and me ffor
the Manerys off Heylesdon, Drayton, &c. for whyche mat'is
I most nedys be heer thys nexte terme therffor I deme it woll
be afftr Mydsom' er than I can see yow.

Please it yow also to weete y^t I comonyd w^t mast' Pykenh'm
to weete iff he wolde bye the clothe off golde for soo moche as
he

Saint Margaret, that I sent you for a remembrance, till ye come home; ye have left me such a remembrance, that maketh me to think upon you both day and night when I would sleep.

Yours,

MARGERY PASTON.

Oxnead,
Thursday, 18th of December,
1477, 17 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

To my right worshipful Mother Margaret Paston, be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet, that whereas I intended to have been at home this Midsummer, and purposed with your good help to have begun upon my Father's Tomb, so that it might have been ended this Summer; it is so, that for such causes as are now begun between my Lord of Suffolk and me, for the Manors of Heylesdon, Drayton, &c. for which matters I must needs be here this next term; therefore I deem it would be after Midsummer, ere than [*before*] I can see you.

Please it you also to weet that I communed with Master Pykenham to weet if he would buy the Cloth of Gold for so much

he desyryd ons to have bowte it and he offryd me ons xx marke therffor neu'thelesse it coste me xxiiij^{li} yit nowe when y^t I spake to hym ther off he refusyde to bye it and seyde y^t he hadde nowe so many chargys y^t he maye nott. Butt it is soo y^t the Kynge dothe mak fertayne copys and vestymentys off like clothe whyche he entendyth to gyve to the Coledge at ⁺ Foodryngdre wher my Lorde hys ffadre is nowe buried and he byethe at a grete pryce.

I comonyd w^t the vestment maker ffor to helpe me ffoothe w^t xij yerds and he hathe grauntyd me to doo as Whetleye can telle yow, wherffor iff it please yow that it be bystowyd ffor to make a Towmbe ffor my ffadre at Bromholme, iff ye lyke to fende it hyddr iffe it be solde I undretake or Mychelmesse y^t ther shalle be a Tombe and somwhatt ellys ovyr my ffadris grave on whoys Sowle God have merfye y^t ther shall noone be lyke it in Norff and as ye shalle be gladde herafftr to see it, and God fende me leyfer y^t I maye come home and iff I doo not yit the monye shall be putte to noon other use butt kepyd by some y^t ye trust tyll y^t it may be bystowyd acordyng as is above wretyn and ellys I gyve yow cawse nevyr to truste me whylle ye and I lyve. When I was last w^t yow ye grauntyd y^t the seyde Clothe of Golde sholde be bywaryd abowte thys werke y^t is above wretyn whyche iff ye wylle perfforme I undretake y^t ther shalle
be

It appears by this Letter that Sir John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o. 9.) feared that his Mother would not send the Cloth of Gold to him, lest he should sell it, and not apply the money to the purpose of erecting a Tomb to the memory of his Father, who had now been dead twelve years. He was buried very sumptuously in Bromholm Priory, and probably a
suitable

as he desired once to have bought it, and he offered me once 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) therefore, nevertheless it cost me 24*l.* yet now, when I spake to him thereof, he refused to buy it; and said, that he had now so many charges that he may not.

But it is so that the King doth make certain Copes and Vestments of like Cloth, which he intendeth to give to the College of ¹ Fotheringhay, where my Lord his Father is now buried, and he buyeth at a great price; I communed with the vestment maker for to help me forth with 12 yards, and he hath granted to do, as Wheatley can tell you; wherefore, if it please you that it be bestowed for to make a Tomb for my father at Bromholm, if ye like to send it hither, if it be sold I undertake ere Michaelmas, that there shall be a Tomb, and somewhat else over my Father's grave, on whose Soul God have mercy, that there shall none be like it in Norfolk; and as ye shall be glad hereafter to see it; and God send me leisure that I may come home, and if I do not, yet the money shall be put to none other use, but kept by some other that ye trust, till that it may be bestowed according as is above written, and else I give you cause never to trust me while ye and I live.

When I was last with you, ye granted, that the said Cloth of Gold should be bewared [*expended in exchange*] about this work, that is above written, which if ye will perform, I undertake

suitable tomb should have been immediately erected, but had been deferred by Sir John from time to time on account of the expence.

* Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, Father of King Edward IV. was slain in the battle of Wakefield, in December, 1460; his corpse was first interred at Pontefract, but afterwards removed to the collegiate church of Fotheringhay.

that

be fuche a Towmbe as ye shalle be pleasyd at thowgh it cost me xx marke off myn owne purse besyde iff I ons sette uppon it.

No mor but I besече Goode have yow in hys kepyng.

Wretyn at London y^e wednyfdaye in Whyghtsonweke A^o.
E. iiij^{ti} xvij^o. Please it yow to sende me worde by Whatley off yowr plesyr her in.

By your Sone,

John Paston, k.

12 by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To the Ryght Worshypfull Sr John Paston, Knyght.

I Greet yow well and send yow Goddys blyffynge and m̄y.
latyng yow wete y^t I have sent yow be Whetele y^e Clothe
of Golde charyng yow yat it be not solde to nō other use yā
to y^e p'rformyng of yowyr fadyrs toombe as ye send me worde
in wrytyng, yf ye sell yt to any othyr use by my trowthe I
shall neu' trost yow wyll I leve.

Remēbyr y^t yt coste me xx^{ti} marke y^e pleggyng owte of yt
and yf I wher not glad to se y^t made I wolde not dep'te from it.
Remēbyr yow what charge I have had w^t yow of late whyche
wyl

that there shall be such a Tomb, as ye shall be pleased with, though it cost me 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) of mine own purse beside, if I once set upon it.

No more, but I beseech God have you in his keeping.

Written at London the Wednesday in Whitsun-week, in the 18th year of Edward IV.

Please you to send me word by Wheatley of your pleasure herein.

By your Son,

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,

Wednesday, 13th of May,
1478, 18 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

To the Right Worshipful Sir John Paston, Knight.

I Greet you well and send you God's blessing and mine, letting you weet that I have sent you by Wheatley the Cloth of Gold, charging you that it be not sold to none other use than to the performing of your Father's Tomb, as ye send me word in writing; if ye sell it to any other use, by my truth, I shall never trust you while I live.

Remember that it cost me 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) the pledging out of it, and if I were not glad to see that made, I would not depart from it. Remember you what charge I have

wyl not be for my ease y^{is} ij yer, whan ye may bett' I trost ye whyll remembyr yt.

' My Cofyn Cler' dothe as meche coste at Bromhom as whylle drawe an C li. upon y^e Deskyes in y^e Quere and in othyr places, and Heydon in lyke whyse and yf y^{er} shulde no thyng be don for y^r fadyr yt wolde be to gret a schame for us alle and in cheffe to se hym lye as he dothe.

Also as I und'stond y^t my Cofyn Robt Clere thynkyth gret on kyndenesse in delyng wyth hym of Pecoke for certeyn pasture y^t be grawntyd hym to have and Pecoke hath letyn it to othyr fuche as he lyst to lete yt to not w'stondyng my Cofyn hath leyd y^e pastur w^t hys Catell and Pecok hathe strenyd them.

I thynk thys delyng is not as yt shulde be. I wolde y^t iche of yow shulde do for other and leve as Kynnyfmen and Frendys, for fuche S'vawnts my make trobyll by twyxe yow, wheche wher a ageynste cortesy so nyhe newbors as ye be, he is a man of substance and worchyp and so wylle be takyn in thys schyr and I wer lothe y^t ye shulde lese y^e good wylle of fuche as may do for yow.

It', wher as ye have begonne yo^r cleyme in Heylyfdon and Drayton. I p^y God fend yow good spede and foderance in yit.

The following is indorsed, "Lrā Johi Paston mil. p. quā patet." "Se fore in magno favore Regis."

This Letter is in answer to that of Sir John Paston to his Mother (Pl. II. N^o 20.) dated 13th of May, 1478, and shews the desire that she had that some Tomb should be erected over her Husband's Grave.

Ye

had with you of late, which will not be for my ease this two years; when ye may better, I trust ye will remember it.

¹ My Cousin Clere doth as much cost at Bromholm as will draw an 100*l.* upon the Desks in the Choir, and in other places, and Heydon in likewise, and if there should nothing be done for your Father, it would be too great a shame for us all, and in chief to see him lie as he doth.

Also as I understand that my Cousin Robert Clere thinketh great unkindness in dealing with him of Peacock, for certain pasture that ye granted him to have, and Peacock hath let it to others, such as he list to let it to, notwithstanding my Cousin hath laid the pasture with his Cattle, and Peacock hath distrained them. I think this dealing is not as it should be: I would that each of you should do for (*the*) other, and live as Kinsmen and Friends; for such Servants may make trouble betwixt you, which were against courtesy, so near neighbours as ye be. He is a man of substance and worship, and so will be taken in this shire; and I were loath that ye should lose the good will of such as may do for you.

Item, whereas ye have begun your claim in Hellefdon and Drayton, I pray God fend you good speed and furtherance in it;

¹ William or Thomas Clere; they both died without issue, and were succeeded by Robert their next brother, who was knighted in 1494, and died in 1529. The advice which she gives her Son respecting his behaviour towards this Gentleman, shews her to be a woman of sense and discernment.

Ye have as good a season as ye wulde wysche confydering y^t yo^r Adu'sary standys not in best favyr w^t y^e Kynge.

Also ye have y^e voyse in y^{is} Contre y^t ye may do as meche w^t y^e Kyng as any Knygth y^t ys longyng to y^e Corte, yf yt be so I pray God contynu yt, And also y^t ye shuld mary rygth nygth of y^e ² Qwenys blood qwat sche ys we are not as certeyn but yf yt be so y^t yowyr lond schuld come agayne by y^e reason of yo^r maryage and to be sett in rest at y^e Reu'ence of God for sake yt nowt yf ye can fynde in yo^r harte to love hyr so y^t sche be fuche on' as ye can thynke to have Issu by or ellys by my trowthe I had rather y^t ye neu' maryd in yo^r lyffe.

Also yf yowyr mater take not now to good effecte ye and all yowyr frendys may repent them y^t ye began yo^r. cleyne w^t owte y^t ye have take fuche a fuyr wey as may be to yo^r intent for many incōvenyens y^t may falle ye^r of. God send yow good spede in all yowyr maters.

Wretyn at Mawteby y^e day aft' Seȳt ³ Austyn in May y^e xviiij yer of Kyng Edward y^e iiij^{te}.

We powyr Hodpr.

12 by 10.

² Some Lady of the Woodvile or Widvile family.

L C C-

ye have as good a feason as ye would wish, considering that your Adversary stands not in best favour with the King.

Also ye have the voice in this Country, that ye may do as much with the King, as any Knight that is belonging to the Court; if it be so, I pray God continue it; and also that ye should marry right nigh of the ² Queen's blood; what she is we are not as certain, but if it be so, that your Land should come again by the reason of your marriage, and to be set in rest, at the reverence of God forsake it not, if ye can find in your heart to love her, so that she be such one as ye can think to have Issue by, or else my by truth, I had rather that ye never married in your life.

Also, if your matter take not now to good effect, ye and all your Friends may repent them that ye began your claim, without that ye have taken such a sure way, as may be to your intent, for many inconveniencies that may fall thereof; God send you good speed in all your matters.

Written at Mawteby the day after Saint ³ Austin in May, the 18th year of King Edward the IVth.

By your Mother.

Mawteby,
Tuesday, 26th of May,
1478, 18 E. IV.

³ St. Augustine, 25th of May.

LET-

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

*To John Paston esquier be thys Lettre delyu'yd or to my Mestresse
hys wyffe at Norwych to delyu' to hym.*

BROTHER John I recomaund me to yow and I thanke God my Suſtr yowr wyffe and yow off my ffayr Nevywe Cryſtofore whyche I undreſtande ye have wher off I ame ryght gladde and I praye God fende yow manye if it be hys plesyr, neu'theleſs ye be nott kynde y^t ye fende me no wetyng ther off I hadde knowlege by ffootemen or eu' ye kowde ffynde any Meſſeng^r on horſbak to brynge me worde theroff.

S^r. it is ſoo y^t the Duke off ¹ Bokyngh'm ſhall come on Pilgrymage to ² Walfyngh'm and ſo to Bokenh'm Caſtell to my Lady hys ³ Suſtr, and then it is ſuppoſyd y^t he ſhalle to my Lady off ⁴ Norff', and myn Oncle Will'm comythe w^t hym and he tellyth me y^t ther is like to be troble in the man' off Oxenhed wherffor I praye yow take hedde leſſe y^t the Duke off Suff' coucell pley therw^t now at the ⁵ vacacōn off the Beneffyſe as

We ſee by this Account the methods practiſed by the great men of the time to get poſſeſſion of Eſtates and Benefices; and we are informed of the King's Intention of ſitting as a Judge to try a Criminal; the Anecdotes likewise of the Earl of Oxford are curious.

¹ Henry Stafford; he was beheaded in 1483, 1 Richard III.

² Pilgrimages to our Lady of Walsingham, in Norfolk, were at this time undertaken by all ranks of people from the King to the Beggar.

they

L E T T E R LXXXV.

*To John Paston, Esquire, be this Letter delivered, or to my Mistrefs
his Wife at Norwich, to deliver to him.*

BROTHER John, I recommend me to you, and I thank God, my Sister your Wife, and you, of my fair Nephew Christopher, which I understand ye have, whereof I am right glad, and I pray God send you many, if it be his pleasure; nevertheless ye be not kind, that ye send me no weeting thereof; I had knowledge by Footmen, or ever ye could find any messenger on horseback to bring me word thereof.

Sir, it is so, that the Duke of ¹ Buckingham shall come on Pilgrimage to ² Walsingham, and so to Bokenham Castle to my Lady his ³ Sister; and then it is supposed, that he shall to my Lady of ⁴ Norfolk, and mine Uncle William cometh with him; and he telleth me, that there is like to be trouble in the Manor of Oxnead; wherefore I pray you take heed, lest that the Duke of Suffolk's Council play therewith now at the ⁵ Vacation of the Benefice, as they did with the Benefice of Drayton,

³ Joan, Sister to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, was the second wife of Sir William Knevet, knight, of Bokenham Castle, in Norfolk.

⁴ Elizabeth, Widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

⁵ Agnes Paston, Grandmother to Sir John, (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) presented Thomas Everard to the Rectory of Oxnead in 1475, and in 1479 she again presented William Barthulmew, so that the Duke of Suffolk either did not attempt to disturb her right; or at least did not succeed, if he endeavoured to do it.

they ded w^t the Benefice off Drayton, whyche by the helpe off Mr. John Salett and Doñe hys man ther was a Qweste made by the seyde Donne y^t ffownde y^t the Duke off Suff^r was verrye Patrone whyche was ffalse yitt they ded it ffor an evydence, but nowe iff any fuche pratte scholde be laboryd it is I hope in bettr case ffor fuche a thyng most needs be ffownde byffor Mast^r John Smyth whyche is ovr olde ffreende wherffor I praye yow labor hym y^t iff neede bee he maye doo use a ffreends torne therin.

It'm bothe ye and I most neds take thys mater as ovr owne and it weer ffor noon other cawse butt ffor ovr goode Grawnt Dames sake neu'thelesse ye woote well thatt ther is an other entresse longyng to usse afftr her dyscease, iff ther be any fuche thyng begun ther by fuche a Fryer or Prest as it is seyde I mervayle y^t ye sente me no worde ther off, butt ye have nowe wyffe and chyld and so moche to kar ffor thatt ye fforgete me.

As for tydyngs her I her telle y^t my Cosyn St. Rob^t Chamb^leyn hathe entryd the man^r of Scolton uppon yowr ⁶ Bedffelawe, Conyerse wheroff ye sende me no worde.

It'm yonge Will'm ⁷ Brandon is in warde and arestyd ffor thatt he scholde have by fforce ravyfshyd and swyvyd an olde Jentylwoman and yitt was nott therw^t easyd butt swyvyd hyr oldest Dowtr and than wolde have swyvyd the other Sustr bothe wherffor men sey ffowle off hym and that he wolde ete the

⁶ A word at this time, implying a Friend, or intimate Acquaintance, who really slept in the same bed. — See Steevens's Shakspeare, Henry V. Act II. Sc. II.

which by the help of Master John Salett and Donne his man, there was a Quest [*Inquest*] made by the said Donne, that found that the Duke of Suffolk was very Patron, which was false, yet they did it for an evidence; but now if any such Prat [*Practice*] should be laboured, it is I hope in better case, for such a thing must needs be found before Master John Smyth, who is our old Friend; wherefore I pray you labour him, that, if need be, he may do us a friend's turn therein.

Item, both ye and I must needs take this matter as our own, and it were for none other cause, but for our good Grandam's sake; nevertheless ye wote well, that there is another Entress [*Interest*] longing to us after her decease; if there be any such thing begun there by such a Fryer or Priest, as it is said, I marvel that ye sent me no word thereof; but ye have now Wife and Child, and so much to care for, that ye forget me.

As for tidings here, I hear tell that my Cousin Sir Robert Chamberlain hath entered the Manor of Scolton upon your 'Bedfellow Conyers, whereof ye send me no word.

Item, Young ⁷ William Brandon is in ward and arrested for that he should have by force ravished an old Gentlewoman, and yet was not therewith eased, but ravished her eldest Daughter, and then would have ravished the other Sister both; wherefore men say foul of him, and that he would eat the Hen and all.

⁷ We are not told who this William Brandon was, therefore it must remain uncertain whether he was related to Sir William Brandon or not.

Henne and alle hyr Chekyñys and som feye y^t the Kynge entendyth to fitte uppon hym and men feye he is lyke to be hangyd ffor he hathe * weddyd a wedowe.

It'm as ffor the Pagent y^t men fey y^t the Erle off ^s Oxenforde hathe pleyd atte Hammys I suppose ye have herde theroff itt is so longe agoo I was nott in thys contre when the tydyngs come therfor I sent yow no worde theroff.

Butt ffor cōclufion as I her feye he lyepe y^e wallys and wente to y^e Dyke and in to y^e Dyke to y^e chynne to whatt entent I can nott telle some fey to stele away and some thynke he wolde have drownyd hymselffe, and so it is demyd.

No mor but I ame nott fertayne whether I shall come home in haft' or nott.

Wretyn at London the daye nexte Seynt 9 Bartelmewe A^o. E. iiij^{ti}. xvij^o.

John Paston, R.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 10 $\frac{3}{4}$.

* John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, had been for several years a Prisoner in the Castle of Hammes, in Picardy.

He became a Favourite of Henry VII. and died in the reign of Henry VIII.

her Chickens; and some say that the King intendeth to sit upon him, and men say, he is like to be hanged, for he hath * wedded a Widow.

Item, as for the Pagent [*Pageant*] that men say that the Earl of ^s Oxford hath played at Hammes, I suppose ye have heard thereof; it is so long ago, I was not in this Country when the tidings came, therefore I sent you no word thereof, but for conclusion, as I hear say, he leaped the Walls, and went to the Dyke, and into the Dyke to the chin; to what intent I cannot tell; some say, to steal away, and some think he would have drowned himself, and so it is deemed.

No more, but I am not certain whether I shall come home in haste or not.

Written at London, the day next Saint ^o Bartholomew, in the 18th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Sunday or Tuesday,
23d or 25th of August,
1478, 18 E. IV.

^o 24th of August.

* His being already a married man was certainly an aggravation of his crime.

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

To y^e Ryght worshipfull Mestresse Margret Paston be thys delyu'yd.

PLEASE it yow to weet y^t I have ben heer at London a xiiij nyght wheroff the ffyrst iiij dayes I was in suche ffeer off the Syknesse and also ffownde my chambr and stufte nott so clene as I demyd whyche troblyd me foor and as I tolde yow at my dep'tyng I was nott weell monyed ffor I hadde nott paste x marke wheroff I dep'tyd xl^s to be delyu'yd off my olde bedfelawe and then I rode be yonde Donstaple and ther spake w^t on off my cheffe Witneffis whyche p'mysed me to take labor and to gete me wryghtyngs towchyng thys mat' bytwyen me and y^e Duke of ' Suff' and I rewardyd hym xx^s and then as I informyd yow I payed v m'rke incontynent uppon my comyng hyddr to replegge owte my Gowne off Velwett and other Geer.

And then I hopyd to have borowyd some off Townesend and he hath ffoodyd ne fforthe evyrsynys and in effeete I cowde have at y^e most and at y^e sonest yist'daye xx^s. wherffor I beseche yow to p'veye me C^s and also to wryght to Pekok y^t he p'veye me as moche C^s whyche I supose y^t he hathe gaddryd at Paston
and

This is the last Letter from Sir John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) who died on the 15th of November following, but whether of the Sicknes, (which he seems in this Letter so much to fear) I cannot discover. He here complains of sickness of body, and seems to have

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

To the right worshipful Mistress Margaret Paston, be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet, that I have been here at London a fortnight, whereof the first four days I was in such fear of the Sickness, and also found my Chamber and Stuff not so clean as I deemed, which troubled me sore; and as I told you at my departing, I was not well monied, for I had not past ten Marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) whereof I departed 4*os.* to be delivered of my old Bedfellow; and then I rode beyond Dunstable, and there spake with one of my Witnesse, which promised me to take labour, and to get me writings touching this matter, between me and the Duke of ¹ Suffolk, and I rewarded him (*with*) 2*os.* and then, as I informed you, I paid five Marks (3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) incontinent [*immediately*] upon my coming here to repledge out my Gown of Velvet and other Geer; and then I hoped to have borrowed some of Townshend, and he hath *footed not forth ever since, and in effect I could have at the most, and at the soonest yesterday 2*os.* wherefore I beseech you to purvey me an 10*os.* and also to write to Peacock, that he purvey me as much, 10*os.* which I suppose that he hath gathered at Paston and other

have likewise much uneasiness of mind.—The Lands at Caister, Helleston, &c. were a constant trouble to him from the Claims of the Duke of Norfolk, Suffolk, &c.

¹ John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

* Qu. footed, i. e. set foot out of his own house—or footed, i. e. eat out of his own house, for fear of the sickness mentioned at the beginning of this Letter.

Places,

and other placis by thys tyme, ffor w^t owte I have thys x li. as God helpe me I ffer I shalle doo butt litell goode in noo mat' nor yitt I woote nott howe to come home but iff I have it.

This Geer hathe troblyd me so y^t itt hathe made me moor than halffe seke as God helpe me.

It' I undrestande y^t myn Oncle Willm hathe made labor to yexchet' and y^t he hathe bothe a Wrytte off effend clowfith extract and also a sup'cedas. I have wretyn to y^e Exchet' ther in off myn entent, iff myn Oncle hadde hys Wyll in that yitt sholde he be neu' the nerre the londe butt in effecte he shold have thys advantage whyche is behovefull ffor a weyke mater, to have a colour or a clooke or a botrase.

But on tywesdaye I was w^t y^e Byfshop off ² Hely whyche shewyth hymselffe goode and worshypfull and he seyde y^t he sholde sende to myn Oncle Will'm y^t he sholde nott procede in no suche mat' till y^t he speke w^t hym and moor ovyr y^t he sholde cawse hym to be heer hastelye, in whyche mat' is no remedy as nowe but iff it wer soo y^t y^e Excheter iff he be entretyd to fytt by myn Oncle Will'm whyche p'case he shall nott, y^t iff my brother John and Lomnor have knowleche off the daye and they myght be ther Lomnor can geve evydence i now in that mater w^t owte y^e boke, and mor ovyr y^t they see bothe the lett' and the other Noote y^t I sente to y^e Excheter and w^t helpe off the Excheter all myght be as beste is and iff my brother and Lomnor take labor her in I shall recōpence ther costs.

Wretyn in haste w^t fchort advisement on the ffrydaye next Seynt Symonds and Jude A°. E. iiij^{ti}. xix°.

² John Morton, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, &c.

Places, by this time; for without I have this 10*l.* as God help me, I fear I shall do but little good in no matter, nor yet I wote not how to come home, but if [*unless*] I have it.

This Geer hath troubled me so, that it hath made me more than half sick, as God help me.

Item, I understand that my Uncle William hath made labour to the Escheator, and that he hath both a Writ of essend: closeth extr; and also a Superfedeas. I have written to the Escheator therein of mine intent, if my Uncle had his will in that, yet should he be never the nearer the Land, but in effect he should have the advantage, which is behoveful for a weak matter to have a colour, or a cloak, or a buttress; but on Tuesday I was with the Bishop of ² Ely, who sheweth himself good and worshipful; and he said that he should send to mine Uncle William, that he should not proceed in no such matter, till that he speak with him; and moreover that he should cause him to be here hastily; in which matter is no remedy as now, but if [*unless*] it were so, that the Escheator, if he be entreated to sit by mine Uncle William, which percase he shall not, that if my brother John and Lomnor have knowledge of the day, and they might be there; Lomnor can give evidence enough in that matter without the book; and moreover that they see both the letter and the other note, that I sent to the Escheator, and with help of the Escheator all might be as best is; and if my brother and Lomnor take labour herein, I shall recompence their costs.

Written in haste with short advisement on the Friday next Saint Simon and Jude, in the 19th year of Edward IV.

Let

Late my brother John se thys bille for he knoweth mor off
thys mater.

John Paston, k.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Paper Mark,
A Flaggon, or
Chalice.
Pl. XII. N° 20.

LETTER LXXXIII.

*To my Ryght worchepfull Modyr Margaret Paston at Sey't
Petr of Hundgate.*

RYGH T worchepfull Modyr astyr all dwtes of humble
recomendacyon as lowly as I can I beseche yow of yor
dayly blyssyng and preyes and Moder John Clement Berer
heroff can tell yow the mor pite is if it pleasyd God that my
brodyr is beryed in the Whyghte Fryers at London whych I
thought shold not have ben for I supposyd that he wold have
ben beryed at Bromholme and that causyd me so sone to ryd to
London to have p'veyd hys bryngīg hom and if it had ben hys
wylle to have leyn at Bromholm I had p'posyd all the wey as I
have redyn to have brought hom my 'Graunt dam' and hym to
gedyrs

On the back of this Letter is written in an ancient hand, "a Lr'e sent from Jo Paston
(Pl. iv. N° 9.) ar to his mother touching the Buryall of his Brother Sir John Paston
in London."

Sir

Let my brother John see this bill, for he knoweth more of the matter.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Friday, 29th of October,
1479, 19 E. IV.

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

*To my right worshipful Mother, Margaret Paston, at St.
Peter's of Hungate.*

RIGHT worshipful Mother, after all duties of humble recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beseech you of your daily blessing and prayers; and Mother, John Clement, Bearer hereof, can tell you the more pity is, if it pleased God that my Brother is buried in the White Fryers at London, which I thought should not have been; for I supposed that he would have been buried at Bromholm, and that caused me so soon to ride to London, to have purveyed his bringing home, and if it had been his will to have lain at Bromholm, I had purposed all the way as I have ridden, to have brought home my ¹ Grandam

Sir John Paston died on the 15th of November, 1479, 19 Edward IV. aged between thirty and forty years, I should suppose nearly forty. This Letter therefore was written in November 1479.

¹ Agnes, Daughter and Coheir of Sir Edmund Berry, knight, and Widow of Sir William Paston, knight, died in 1479.

gedyrs but that p'pose is voyd as now, but thys I thynke to do when I com to London to speke w^t my Lord ² Chamb'leyn and to wyne by hys meanys my Lord of ³ Ely if I can and if I may by eny of ther meanys cause the Kyng to take my servyse and my ⁴ quarrell to gedys I wyll and I thynk that Sr. George ⁵ Brown Sr. Jamys Radclyff and other of myn aqueyntance whyche wayte most upon the Kyng and lye nyghtly in hys ⁶ Chamber wyll put to ther good wyllys thys is my wey as yet. And Modyr I besече yow as ye may get or send eny messengers to send me yo^r avyse and my cosyn Lomeners to John Leeis hows Taylere w^t in Ludgate. I have myche more to wryght but myn Empty hed wyll not let me remēbre it.

Also Modyr I prey that my brodyr Edmōd may ryd to Marlyngforthe Oxenhed Paston Crowmer and Cast' and all thes maners to entre in my name and to lete the tenāts of Oxenhed and Marlyngfor know that I sent no word to hym to take no mony of theym but ther attornement wherfor he wyll not tyll he her fro me ayen axe hem non but lete hym comand theym to pay to Servāts of myn oncles nor to hymselff nor to non othyr to hys use in peyne of payment ayen to me I thynk if ther shold be eny money axid in my name p'aventure it wold

² William, Lord Hastyngs.

³ John Morton, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor.

⁴ This must relate to his Dispute with the Duches of Norfolk, relative to Caister, or to some Disputes with his Uncle William Paston, concerning other Manors and Estates.

and him together, but that purpose is void as now ; but this I think to do when I come to London, to speak with my Lord² Chamberlain, and to win by his means my Lord of³ Ely if I can ; and if I may, by any of their means, cause the King to take my service and my⁴ quarrel together, I will ; and I think that Sir George⁵ Brown, Sir James Radcliff, and others of mine acquaintance, which wait most upon the King, and lie nightly in his⁶ Chamber, will put to their good wills : this is my way as yet.

And Mother, I beseech you, as ye may get or send any messengers, to send me your advice and my Cousin Lomenor's, to John Lee's house, Taylor, within Ludgate.

I have much more to write, but my empty head will not let me remember it.

Also Mother I pray that my brother Edmund may ride to Marlingford, Oxnead, Paston, Cromer, and Caister, and in all these Manors to enter in my name, and to let the Tenants of Oxnead and Marlingford know, that I sent no word to him to take no money of them, but their Attornment ; wherefore he will not till he hear from me again ask them none, but let him command them to pay to Servants of mine Uncle, nor to himself, nor to none other to his use, in pain of payment again to me ; I think if there should be any money asked in my name, peradventure it would make my Lady of Norfolk against

⁵ Of Beechworth Castle, in Surry ; he assisted the Duke of Buckingham, in 1484.

⁶ These seem to have been the " Esquires of the King's Body," who lay in his Chamber.

make my Lady 'of Norf' aynst me and cause hyr to thynk
I dellt more contrary to hyr plesure than dyd my brodyr whom
God p'don of hys gret mercy. I have sent to entre at Stansted
and at Orwellbery and I have wretyn a bylle to Anne Montgomery
and Jane Rodon to make my Lady of Norff' if it wyll be.

Yor Sone and humble Servnt,

J. Paston,

11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 6 $\frac{1}{4}$.

ORIGI-

me, and cause her to think I dealt more contrary to her pleasure than did my brother, whom God pardon of his great mercy !

I have sent to enter at Stansted and at Orwellbury ; and I have written a bill to Anne Montgomery and Jane Rodon, to make my Lady of Norfolk if it will be.

Your Son, and humble Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

November, 1479,
19 E. IV.

ORIGI-

E D W A R D W

me, and came her to think I shall more certainly do it than
I have felt to enter as I should and at Orkney; and I
have written a bill to Anne Montgomery and Jane Rodger to
make my Lady of North. It is well be.

Your Son, and humble Servant

JOHN TASTON

10.1.17.

OR 10

OR 10

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

A P P E N D I X.

E D W A R D IV.

1460 - - - - - 1483.

Dates uncertain.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

L E T T E R I I I.

To myrith worchepfull husbond John Paston be y^r delyu'yd in hast.

PLESYTH yow to wete y^t John Wellys and hys brodyr told me thys nyth y^t the Kyng lay at Cambryge as yestyr nyth to Sandwyche ward for ther is gret dyvyfyen be twyx the Lordys and the Schypmen ther that causyth hym to goo thedyr to se a remedye therfor.

I thank God that John Paston yed non erstforthe for I trust to God all schall be do er he comyth and it is told me that Syr John Howard is lek to lese hys hed.

If it plese yow to fend to the feyd Wellys he schall fend yow mor tydyngys than I may wryt at thys tyme.

God have yow in hys kepyng. Wretyn in hast at Thetford at xj of the klok in y^e nyth the same day I dep'tyd fro yow. I thank Pampyng of hys good wyll and them y^t wer cause of changyng of my hors for they ded me a bettyr torne

The tidings contained in this Letter, Margaret Paston (Pl. 11. N^o 25.) thought of sufficient consequence, as her Son appears to have been on his way to join these forces, to fend in a Letter to her husband, though she had left him only that day.

than

EDWARD IV.

LETTER I.

To my right worshipful husband, John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

PLEASETH you to weet, that John Welles and his brother told me this night, that the King lay at Cambridge as yester night to Sandwich ward, for there is great division betwixt the Lords and the Shipmen there, that causeth him to go thither, to see a remedy therefore.

I thank God that John Paston went not earlier forth, for I trust to God all shall be done ere he cometh; and it is told me that Sir John Howard is like to lose his head.

If it please you to send to the said Welles, he shall send you more tidings than I may write at this time.

God have you in his keeping.

Written in haste at Thetford, at 11 of the clock in the night the same day I departed fro you.

I thank Pampyng of his good will, and them that were (*the*) cause of changing of my horse; for they did me a better turn

This Letter was written before 1466, for in that year her Husband, J. Paston, died.

than I wend they had do and I schall aquyt them anothyr day
and I maye.

By yor M. P.

10 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4.

LETTER III.

To my Right trusty ffrend John Paston Squier.

TRUSTY and Welbeloved frend I grete you wele And
for as much as hit is don me to understande that there is
a greet straungenesse betwix my Right trusty frend ¹ John Rad-
cliff and you withoute any matier or cause of substaunce as I am
lerned Wherefore in as much as I love you wele bothe I am not
content hit shulde so be.

Praying you hertly to forbere the said straungenesse on yo^r
p'tie to suche tyme as I speke with you next my self leting
you wite I have wreten to him to do the same And that ye
faile not herof as I may do any thing for you hereafter And o^r
lorde have you in his keping. Wretin at London the x day of
ffeurier.

² Cromwell.

9 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5.

This Letter shews the friendly disposition of the Lord Cromwell, and seems to hint his
suspicious, that some disagreeable circumstance might attend this strangeness, if both
parties did not obey his injunctions.

¹ John Radcliff was afterwards Lord Fitzwalter.

than I wend they had done, and I shall acquit [*requite*] them another day and I may.

By your MARGARET PASTON.

Thetford,
Before 1466,
6 E. IV.

L E T T E R II.

To my Right trusty Friend, John Paston, Esquire.

TRUSTY and well beloved Friend, I greet you well, and for as much as it is done me to understand that there is a great strangeness betwixt my Right trusty friend ¹ John Radcliff and you, without any matter or cause of substance, as I am learned. Wherefore in as much as I love you well both, I am not content it should so be.

Praying you heartily to forbear the said strangeness on your part, to such time as I speak to you next myself, letting you weet, I have written to him to do the same. And that ye fail not hereof, as I may do any thing for you hereafter.

And our Lord have you in his keeping. Written at London the 10th day of February.

² CROMWELL.

London,
10th of February, E. IV.

² Humphrey Bouchier, Lord Cromwell, was third Son of Henry, Earl of Essex; and marrying Joanna, coheirefs of Maud, Sister of Ralph, Lord Cromwell, had summons to parliament as Baron Cromwell, in 1461, 1 E. IV. Pl. iv. N^o 8.

This Letter therefore was written in this reign.

LETTER III.

On to Jan Paston in hast.

MASTYR Paston I pray yow y^t it may plesse yow to
¹ leue yowr logeyng for iij or for days tyll I may be
² porved of anodyr and I schal do as musche to yowr plesyr,
 for Godys sake say me not nay and I pray yow rekomaund
 me to my lord ³ Chambyrleyn.

Nowe Frend Elizabeth.

9 by 4 $\frac{1}{4}$.

The whole of this Letter, of which, for its curiosity, I have had a Fac Simile engraved (See Pl. xv. xvi. N^o 2, 3.), is written by Elizabeth, third Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Cecily, Daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland.

She was Sister to Edward IV. and Richard III. by the latter of whom her Son, John Earl of Lincoln (after the Death of his own Son), was declared heir to the Crown.

She married John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and lies buried with him in Wingfield Church in Suffolk. Pl. iv. N^o 2.

Under the Direction is written (I believe) in the hand of Sir John Paston . . .
 "Littrā Ducisse Suff".

If so, this Letter was written in the reign of Edward IV. for Sir John died in 1479, 19 E. IV. But if this memorandum be the hand writing of Sir John Paston's brother, then this Letter might be written in the reign of Richard III. or even of Henry VII.

¹ Leue, or lend—I believe it is leve, but it is so written, that it is very difficult to determine.

² Porved, purveyed.

LCC.

L E T T E R III.

Unto John Paston, in haste.

MASTER Paston, I pray you, that it may please you to ¹ leave your Lodging for three or four days, till I may be ² *purveyed* of another, and I shall do as much to your pleasure; for God's sake, say me not nay, and I pray you recommend me to my Lord ³ Chamberlain.

Your Friend ELIZABETH.

E. IV.

³ William, Lord Hastings, was Lord Chamberlain to Edward IV. the Seal is octangular, the impression a Rose. Pl. XIV. N^o 26.

The curiosity of this Letter consists in the rank of the Lady, and in being perhaps the only one extant of her writing.

It shews likewise the simplicity of the times, when a Princess of the Blood royal coming to London unprovided of a Lodging, petitions for the use of that of a Friend for a few days, in the humblest terms; "for Godys sake say me not nay."

As to exterior form, this is rather a note than a Letter, being only folded, without turning in the edges of the paper. A filken twine had been passed through every fold of it, the ends of which were afterwards united, and secured under the seal. The punctures made by the insertion of the silk, are represented in the Fac Simile of this curious billet, as are likewise the folds.

The Direction seems not to be in the hand of the Lady Elizabeth, but of some Secretary in attendance on her. Perhaps she did not choose to trust him with the singularity of her request, but employed him only to superscribe it.

L C C.

L E T T E R III.

To Mastresse Annes.

SYTHE it is so that I may not as oft as I wold be ther as I might do my message myselff, myn owne fayir Mastresse Annes I prey yow to accept thys byll for my messanger to recomand me to yow in my most feythfull wyse as he that faynest of all other desyreth to knowe of yowr welfare whyche I prey God encrease to your most plesure.

And Mastresse thow so be that I as yet have govyn yow bot easy cause to remembyr me for leke of aqweytacōn yet I beseeche yow let me not be forgotyn when ye rekyn up all yowr Servñts to be sett in the nombyr w^t other.

And I prey yow Mastresse Annes for that servyse that I owe yow that in as short tyme as ye goodly may that I myght be assarteynyed of yowr entent and of your best frends in fyche maters as I have brokyn to yow of whyche bothe your and myn' ryght trusty frends John Lee, or ellys my Mastresse hys wyff promysyd befor yow and me at our fyrst and last beīg togedyr that as sone as they or eyther of theym knewe your entent and your frendys that they shold send me woord And if they so do I tryst sone aftyr to se yow.

This Letter from John Paston (Pl. iv. N^o 9.) to Mrs. Annes or Anne, is either to a Mrs. Anne Haulte, or to some Lady abroad at Calais, from which place he was at this time returning.

And

L E T T E R IV.

To Mistrefs Anne.

SINCE it is so, that I may not as oft as I would be there, as [*that*] I might do my message myself, mine own fair Mistrefs Anne, I pray you to accept this bill for my messenger to recommend me to you in my most faithful wife, as he that fainest [*most anxiously*] of all other desireth to know of your welfare, which I pray God increase to your most pleasure.

And Mistrefs, though so be, that I as yet have given you but easy [*little*] cause to remember me for lack of acquaintance, yet I beseech you let me not be forgotten, when ye reckon up all your Servants, to be set in the number with others.

And I pray you, Mistrefs Anne, for that service that I owe you, that in as short time, as ye goodly may, that I might be ascertained of your intent, and of your best Friends, in such matters as I have broken to you of; which both your and mine right trusty Friends John Lee, or else my Mistrefs his Wife, promised before you and me at our first and last being together, that as soon as they, or either of them knew your intent, and your Friends, that they should send me word, and if they so do, I trust soon after to see you.

His saying "I am proud that ye can read Inglyshe," seems to imply that some other language was her native one; and therefore she was most probably some foreign Lady.

And

And now farewell myn owne fayir Lady and God geve yow good rest for in feythe I trow ye be in bed.

Wretyn in my wey homward on Mary Maudeleyn day at mydnyght.

Your owne,

John Paston.

Mastresse Annes I am proud that ye can reed Inglyshe wherfor I prey yow aqweynt yow w^t thys my lewd hand for my purpose is that ye shalbe more aqweyntyd w^t it or ellys it shalbe ayenst my wyll but yet and when ye have red thys byll I prey yow brenne it or kepe it secret to yourfylff as my feythesfull trust is in yow.

12 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{4}$.

L E T T E R U.

To my right trusty and welbeloved S^{on}'t John Paston Squier.

JOHN PASTON I recomāunde me unto you. And whereas I appointed and desired you to goo over unto Guyfnes to yeve youre attendaunce and assistaunce upon my brother S^r. Rauf Hastings in all suche things as concerne the furetie and defense of the Castell of Guyfnes during his infirmyties. It is shewed
unto

And now farewell, mine own fair Lady, and God give you good rest, for in faith I trow ye be in bed.

Written in my way homeward, on Mary Magdalen's day at Midnight.

Your own,

JOHN PASTON.

Mistress Anne, I am proud that ye can read English, wherefore I pray you acquaint you with this my lewd [*uncouth*] hand, for my purpose is, that ye shall be more acquainted with it, or else it shall be against my will; but yet and when ye have read this bill, I pray you [burn it, or keep it secret to yourself, as my faithful trust is in you.

22d of July,
St. Mary Magdalen.

[L E T T E R V.]

To my right trusty and well-beloved Servant, John Paston, Esquire.

JOHN PASTON, I recommend me unto you. And whereas I appointed and desired you to go over unto Guisnes to give your attendance and assistance upon my brother Sir Ralph Hastings in all such things as concern the surety and defence of the Castle of Guisnes during his infirmities; it is shewed unto me

unto me that ye have full truely and diligently acquyted you unto my faide Brother in all his besynesses fith your comyng thider Whereof I thanke you hertly. And as I conceive to my grete comfort and gladnesse my faide brother is wele recov'ed and amended thanked be God. And soo I truste he may nowe spare you. Wherupon I have writen unto him, if he may soo doo, to licence you to come over unto me ayen. Wherefore I woll and desire you thaffent of my faide brother had, to dispose you to come over in all goodly haste as well for suche grete maters as I fele by youre ffrends ye have to doo here, as to yeve youre attendaunce upon me. And your retourne ye shall be to me welcome, ffrom london the xxvj day of Aurill.

* I p̄y you in no wise to dep't as yet w'out my brother Roaf asent and agrement' and recomaūd me to my Syft' all my necs to y^e Constabell and to all Ryues.

Y^r tru frend,

Hastynge.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,
Part of an Animal, Pl. xxi. N^o 2r.
The other part is cut off.

UJ.

* This Letter as far as "xxvj day of Aurill," is written by the Secretary of the Lord Hastynge, from thence to the end by that Nobleman himself, in a hand almost illegible, of which that the reader may judge for himself, a Fac-Simile is represented on Pl. xvi. N^o 4.

John Paston appears here to have been in the service of, and so highly respected by the Lord Hastynge, as to be sent as a kind of Deputy Governor of the Castle of Guisnes, during the illness of his Brother Sir Ralph Hastynge.

The style and manner of spelling in this Letter, differ so little from the modern, that it is scarcely possible to conceive that it should have been written above 300 years ago, and

that ye have full truly and diligently acquitted you unto my said Brother, in all his Businesse since your coming thither. Whereof I thank you heartily. And as I conceive to my great comfort and gladness, my said brother is well recovered and amended, thanked be God. And so I trust he may now spare you. Whereupon I have written unto him, if he may so do, to licence you to come over unto me again. Wherefore I will and desire you, the assent of my said brother had, to dispose you to come over in all goodly haste, as well for such great matters, as I feel by your Friends, ye have to do here, as to give your attendance upon me. And (*at*) your return, you shall be to me welcome. From London, the 26th day of April.

* I pray you in no wise to depart as yet, without my brother Roaf's [*Ralph's*] assent and agreement; and recommend me to my Sister, all my Nieces, to the Constable, and to all Reeves.

Your true Friend,

HASTYNGS.

London,
26th of April,
147—, E. IV.

and though the Letter itself contains no remarkable circumstance, yet being the private Letter of a man so well known in our History, it must be esteemed a great curiosity.

* William Hastings, Lord Hastings, was summoned to parliament in 1461, 1 E. IV. He was Lieutenant of Calais, and enjoyed several High Offices of Trust and Confidence, in the reign of Edward IV.—He married Catharine, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and was beheaded in the Tower, by the instant order of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, on the 13th of June, 1483. Pl. iv. N° 7.

WJ.

The Inventory off Englyshe Boks off John
made y^e v daye of Novembr A^o. R R E iij

- 1 **A** Boke had off myn Oteffe at y^e George
 off y^e Dethe off Arthr begynyng at Cassab
Warwyk Kyng Ri cur de lyon a Cronic
to Edward y^e iij. prec.
- 2 It'm a Boke off Troylus whyche Will'm Bra
 hathe hadde neer x yer and lent it to Dame
 Wyngfelde and ibi ego vidi. valet :
- 3 It' a blak Boke w^t the Legende off ^rLad
saunce m'cye y^e Parlement off Byrd
Glasse Palatyse and Scitacus the me
the Greene Knyght valet
- 4 It' a Boke in preente off the Pleye off y^e
- 5 It' a Boke lent Midelton and therin is *Bele Da*
mercy y^e P'lement off Byrds Balade

We are here furnished with a curious, though imperfect, Catalogue of the Library of a Gentleman in the reign of Edward IV.

It is written on a strip of paper about seventeen inches long, and has been rolled up, by which means one end having been damp, is entirely decayed, so that the Names of some of the Books are imperfect, and the then price or value of all of them is not now to be discovered, that having been uniformly written at the end, which is now destroyed.

It contained an Account of all the Books he had, as it mentions those which were lent out at the time the Catalogue was made; and though the Name of the Owner is gone, yet by comparing the List with the Account of William Ebesham, in Letter XXIV. it fixes it to the Library of John Paston.

off

VI.

The Inventory of English Books, of John Paston, made the 5th day of November, in the . . . year of the reign of Edward IV.

1. **A** Book had of my Hostess at the George,
of the Death of Arthur, beginning at Cassibelan.
Guy Earl of Warwick
King Richard Cœur de Lyon
a Chronicle to Edward the III. price.
2. Item, a Book of Troilus, which William Br . . .
hath had near ten years, and lent it to Dame . . .
Wyngfeld, and there I saw it . . . worth
3. Item, a black Book, with the Legend of ¹ Lad . . .
Lady fans Mercy.
The Parliament of Birds.
The Temple of Glafs.
Palatyse and Scitacus.
The Meditations of . . .
The Green Knight . . . worth
4. Item, a Book in print of the Play of . . .
5. Item, a Book lent Midelton, and therein is
Belle Dame fans Mercy.
The Parliament of Birds.

It contained only one Book in print, the rest being Manuscripts, and appear to have been bound together, as numbered 1, 2, 3, &c. in the Inventory.

An Account of most of the Books mentioned is to be found in Mr. Warton's "History of English Poetry," and some of them, when afterwards printed in Mr. Herbert's improved Edition of Ames's "History of Printing;" to these, therefore, I refer the Reader.

I have given the Arabic Figures as here represented, at Pl. vi. N^o 31, the forms of 3, 4, 5 and 7, varying from those now used.

¹ May not the chasm be thus supplied? *The Legende off Ladys, and la bele Dame*, as la bele Dame saunce m'eye is never called by the name of Legend in any edition of Chaucer that I have seen.

- off Guy and Colbronde off the goos y*
y^e Dysputson bytween Hope and Dyspeyr
Marchaunts y^e Lyffe off Seynt Cry
 6 A reede Boke y^t P^rcyvall Robfart gaff m
off y^e medis off y^e masse y^e Lamentacon
off Chylde Ypotis a preyer to y^e vernyclr
callyd the Abbeye off y^e Holy Goost
 7 It' in q̄yers. Tully de Senectute in
 wheroff ther is no mor cleer wretyn
 8 It' in quayers Tully or ² cypio ³ de Ami
 leffte w^t Will'm Worcest' valet
 9 It', in qwayers a Boke off y^e Polecye of In
 10 It' in qwayers a Boke de Sapiencia
 wherin y^e ij parson is liknyd to Sapi
 11 It' a Boke de ⁴ Othea text and glofe valet
 in quayers.

Paper Mark,

A Unicorn. Pl. xii. N^o 23.

N. B. A part of it only remains,
the paper being one half of a sheet
cut down the middle.

M^d. myn olde Boke off Blafonyngs off a
 It' the nywe Boke portrayed and blafoned.
 It' a Copy off Blafonyngs off Armys and th
 names to be fownde by lett'.
 It' a Boke w^t Armys portrayed in paper
 M^d. my Boke off Knyghthod and the man
 off makyng off Kyghts, off Jufts off Tor

² Quære, if Cypio is not a mistake from "Somnium Scipionis," a piece which is usually printed with the "de Amicitia," and probably accompanied it in this manuscript.

³ It is a curious circumstance that this book should be here mentioned as left with William Worcester, who, with the assistance of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, and John Phrea, or Free, a Monk of Bristol, translated it.

ffyghtyng

- Ballad of Guy and Colbrond,
 of the Goose, the
 The Disputation between Hope and Despair.
 Merchants.
 The Life of Saint Chrystopher.
6. A red Book that Percival Robfart gave me ;
 of the Meeds of the Mafs.
 The Lamentation of Child Ipotis.
 A Prayer to the Vernicle,
 called the Abbey of the Holy Ghost.
7. Item, in quires, Tully de Senectute in
 whereof there is no more clear writing.
8. Item, in quires, Tully or ² Cypio (*Scipio*) ³ de Amicitia,
 left with William Worcester worth
9. Item, in quires, a Book of the Policy of In
10. Item, in quires, a Book de Sapientiâ,
 wherein the second person is likened to Sapience.
11. Item, a Book de ⁴ Othea [*Wisdom*] text and glos, worth
 in quires
- Memorandum ; mine old Book of Blazonings of Arms.
 Item, the new Book portrayed and blazoned.
 Item, a Copy of Blazonings of Arms, and the
 names to be found by Letter [*alphabetically*].
 Item, a Book with Arms portrayed in paper.
 Memorandum ; my Book of Knighthood ; and the manner
 of making of Knights ; of Jufts, of Tournaments ;

⁴ This Book "de Othea," is a poetical Epistle (if I remember right) from Hector to Othea, probably Minerva or Wisdom, who is addressed in the Iliad frequently by the title of Ω Θεια ; this circumstance is laid hold of by some French Antiquary (for the original of this book is in French), to prove that Greek was understood in France earlier than is usually imagined.

flyghtyng in Lyftys paces holden by So
 and chalengs, Statuts off Weer and de regim
 valet
 It' a Boke off nyw Statuts ffrom Edward the iiij.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 17.

L E T T E R U I I I.

*Verses written by a Lady in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.
 To an absent Lord with whom she was in love.*

MY ryght good Lord most knyghtly gentyll Knyght
 On to yo^r grace in my most humbyll wyfe
 I me comand as it is dew and ryght
 Befechyng yow at leyser to * advyse
 Upon thys byll and p'don myn empryse
 Growndyd on foly for lak of provydence
 On to yo^r Lordshep to wryght w^t owght lycence.
 “ But wher a man is w^t a fevyr shake
 Now hot now cold as fallyth by aventure
 He in hys mynd conjecte wyll and take

The

fighting in Lifts ; paces holden by Soldiers ;
 Challenges ; Statutes of War ; and de Regimine
 Principum. worth
 Item, a Book of new Statutes from Edward the IV.

5th of November, E. IV.

L E T T E R VII.

*Verses written by a Lady in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV.
 To an absent Lord with whom she was in love.*

MY right good Lord, most knightly gentle Knight,
 Unto your Grace, in my most humble wife,
 I me commend, as it is due and right,
 Befeeching you at leifure to *advise
 Upon this bill, and pardon mine emprize
 Grounded on Folly, for lack of providence,
 Unto your Lordship to write without Licence.
 But when a man is with a fever shake
 Now hot, now cold, as falleth by adventure,
 He in his mind conjecture will, and take

* Consider—reflect.

The nyghest meane to ¹ worche hys cuyre
 More pacyently hys peynys to endure
 And ryght so I so it yow not dyspleafe
 Wryght in thys wyfe my peynys to apeafe.

“ For when I cownt and mak a rekn̄g
 Betwyx my lyfe my dethe and my desyer
 My lyfe alas it feryth of no thyng
 Sythe w^t. yo^r p’tyng depertyd my ² plesyer
 Wyshyng yo^r p’fence setyth me on fyer
 But then yo^r absence dothe my hert so cold
 That for the peyne I ³ not me wher to hold.

O owght on Absence ther foolys have no grace
 I mene mysylf nor yet no wytt to ³ gweye
 Theym owt of peyne to com on to that place
 Wher as presence may shape a remedye
 For al dyseafe now fye on my folye
 For I dyspeyryd am of yo^r soone metyng
 That God I prey me to yo^r p’fence bryng.

Farwell

These Verses are inserted as a specimen of the Poetry of a Lady, sent as a Letter to a Nobleman, who was absent from her, and for whom she appears to have had a sincere affection.

The Thoughts contained in them are, many of them, natural and tender, and some of them pretty and affecting.

They are certainly originals, as in several places the words first written are struck out, and words more to the writer’s satisfaction inserted above them—thus the 6th line in the fifth Stanza, was originally written,

“ Er

The nigheſt mean to ¹ work his cure,
 More patiently his pains to endure ;
 And right ſo I, ſo it you not diſpleaſe,
 Write in this wiſe my pains to appeaſe.

For when I count and make a reckoning,
 Betwixt my life, my death, and my deſire,
 My life, alas ! it ſerveth of nothing,
 Since with your parting, departed my ² pleaſure ;
 Wiſhing your preſence ſetteth me on fire,
 But then your abſence doth my heart ſo cold,
 That for the pain, I ³ not me where to hold.

O out on abſence, there Fools have no grace,
 I mean myſelf, nor yet no wit to ³ gwyde
 Them out of pain, to come unto that place ;
 Where as preſence may ſhape a remedy
 For all diſeaſe, now fye on my folly,
 For I deſpaired am of your ſoon meeting,
 That God I pray, me to your preſence bring.

“ Er *then may I* but *thys* ye ſhall not myſſe,”
 And then thus altered,

“ Er I my ſylf but yett ye ſhall not myſſe,”
 Several others have ſimilar alterations.

They were written either in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. the writing and Paper being both of that age, and the paper Mark (a Bull) is uſed upon two other Letters, XXIII. and XXV. in this Collection of the former reign.

¹ Perhaps it may mean watch.

² As ſpelt in the Original, pleyer, it rhimes exactly with deſyer and fyer.

³ Guide.

Farwell my Lord for I may wryght no more
 So trowblyd is my hert w^t hevynesse
 Envye also it grewyth me most fore
 That thys rude byll shall put hym fylf in ⁴ presse
 To se yo^r Lordshepe of hys p^rsumptuousnesse
 Er I my fylf but yett ye shall not mysse
 To have my hert to for my byll I wys.

Whyche I comytt and all my hole servyse
 Into yo^r hands demeane it as you lyst
 Of it I *kepe to have no more franchyse
 Then I hertlesse swyrly me wyft
 Savyng only y^t it be as ⁵ tryft
 And to yow trew as evyr was hert and pleyn
 Tyll cruell dethe dep't yt up on tweyn.

Adew dysport farwell good companye
 In all thys world ther is no Joye I weene
 For ther as whyleom I fye w^t myn iee
 A ⁶ Lusty Lord leepyng upon a grene
 The soyle is foole no knyghts ther be seen
 No Ladyse walk ther they wer wont to doone
 Alas some folk depertyd henfe to soone.

⁴ Readiness.

⁵ Quare, whether this means *sorrowful* or *trusty*?

I

Som'

Farewell my Lord, for I may write no more,
 So troubled is my heart with heaviness;
 Envy also, it grieveth me most fore,
 That this rude bill shall put himself in ⁴ press,
 To see your Lordship of his presumptuousness
 Ere I myself; but yet ye shall not miss
 To have my heart tofore my bill, I wis.

Which I commit, and all my whole service
 Into your hands, demean it as you list,
 Of it, I * keep to have no more franchise
 Than I heartless surely me wist,
 Saving only that it be as ⁵ trift,
 And to you true, as ever was heart, and plain,
 Till cruel Death depart it upon twain.

Adieu Disport, farewell good company,
 In all this world there is no joy I ween,
 For there as whilom, I see with mine eye
 A ⁶ lusty Lord leaping upon a Green,
 The foil is sole no Knights there be seen,
 No Ladies walk there they were wont to done;
 Alas! some Folk departed hence too soon.

⁶ Lively, and active in his exercises.

* I care.

Som' tyme also mē myght a wageor make
 And w^t ther bowys a ffeld have it tryed
 Or at the ' Paame ther ther plesure for to take
 Then wer they loofe y^t now stand as tyed
 I ^s not wher to thys world may be aplied
 For all good cher on evyn and on morow
 Whyche then was made now tornyth me to forow.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Paper Mark,

A Bull.

Pl. ix. N^o 10.

⁷ Some place of refort for the Game of Tennis. The word *ther* being repeated seems a mistake, as it destroys the measure of the verse.

ORIGI-

Some time also men might a wager make
And with their Bows afield have it tried,
Or at the ' Paume their pleasure for to take,
Then were they loofe, that now stand as tied,
I ^s not whereto this world may be applied;
For all good cheer, on even and on morrow,
Which then was made, now turneth me to sorrow.

^s I not, for, I wot not; that is, *I know not.*

Some time also men might a wager make
 And wish their Bows should have it used
 Or at the Parson their pleasure for to take
 Then were they looke, that now stand as tied
 I ' not where to this world may be applied
 For all good cheer, on even and on morrow
 Which then was made, how turneth me to morrow

I not for I not not that is I have not

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

RICHARD III.

1483 - - - - - 1485.
1 - - - - - 3 R. III.

VOL. II.

S s

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

L E T T E R J.

To my right welbeloved frynde John Paston be this delivred in hast.

RIGHT welbeloved frynde, I comaunde me to you, It is soo that the Kentyfshmen be up in the ¹ Weld, and sey that they wol com' and Robbe the Cite which I shall lett yf I may.

Therefore I pray you that with alle diligence ye make you redy and com hidder, and bring w^t you fix talle felaws in harnesse, and ye shall not lyse yo^r labor, that knoweth God whoo have you in his keping.

Written at London, the xth day of October.

Your Frend,

² J. Norfolk.

Paper Mark,
The Letter G.
Pl. XIII. N^o 2.
8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

This Letter refers to the Commotions excited in different parts of the Kingdom by the Duke of Buckingham, who from discontent conspired against Richard. He failed in his enterprize however, and being deserted by his forces, fled, was treacherously betrayed, taken, and beheaded.

L E T -

R I C H A R D III.

L E T T E R I.

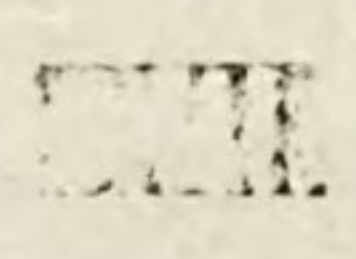
To my right well-beloved Friend John Paston, be this delivered in haste.

RIGHT well beloved Friend, I commend me to you. It is so that the Kentishmen be up in the ¹ Weld, and say that they will come and rob the City, which I shall let [*prevent*] if I may.

Therefore I pray you, that, with all diligence, ye make you ready and come hither, and bring with you six tall Fellows in harness; and ye shall not lyse [*lose*] your labour, that knoweth God, who have you in his keeping.

Written at London, the 10th day of October.

Your Friend,

 ² J. NORFOLK.

London,
Friday, 10th of October,
1483, 1 R. III.

¹ The Welds, or Wealds, in Kent, are the woody, and the Wolds are the open parts of that County.

² John, Lord Howard (descended from Margaret, Daughter and Coheir of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk), was created Duke of Norfolk, in 1483, 1 R. III. and was slain at the battle of Bosworth, in 1485. Pl. VII. N° 4.

L E T T E R I I I .

*The Duc of Suff**To Thomas Jeffreys o' ffermor of Maundevills greting.*

WE wole and streitly charge you that ye content and paie unto the bring^r herof for money imployed in o^r household thre pound threttenne shillings and foure pens for such stuff as we o^r owne p[']son have p[']mysed and not to be failed upon o^r worship.

Of y^e which some of lxxiijs iiij^d so by you contented and paid we wole and also stretly charge o^r Auditors for the tyme being by v[']tu of this o^r writing, signed w^t o^r hand to make you dew and pleyn allowaunce at yo^r next accompt.

At Wingfeld the first day of May in the first yer of Kyng Richard y^e III^{de}.

Suffolk, and staple not on peyn

losy'g off por fferme.

7 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 $\frac{1}{4}$.
Paper Mark,
Hand and Star.
Pl. XIII. N^o 4.

We have here an order of the Duke of Suffolk upon a Tenant, for the payment of a sum of money, which the Duke had promised on his honour should be paid.

This is a common occurrence, and certainly not worth recording, if it had not been for the threat at the end of it, under his own hand, which shews the despotism of the Duke, and that the farm was let at will, and not on lease.

L E T T E R .

L E T T E R II.

*The Duke of Suffolk,**To Thomas Jeffreys, Farmer of Maundevill's, greeting.*

WE will and straitly charge you, that ye content and pay unto the Bringer hereof, for money employed in our Household, three pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, for such stuff as we our own person have promised, and not to be failed, upon our worship.

Of the which sum of 73*s.* and 4*d.* so by you contented and paid, we will, and also straitly charge our Auditors for the time being, by virtue of this our writing, signed with our hand, to make you due and plain [*full*] allowance at your next account.

At Wingfield, the first day of May, in the first year of King Richard the III.

SUFFOLK, and fail not on pain (*of*)

losing of your Farm.

Wingfield,
Saturday, 1st of May,
1484, 1 R. III.

John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, married Elizabeth, Sister of Edward IV. and Richard III. and was father of John, Earl of Lincoln, whom Richard declared Heir to the Crown.

This Duke died in 1491, and was buried at Wingfield, in Suffolk, where the principal entrance-front of his Castle still remains entire. Pl. VII. N° 3.

L E T-

L E T T E R I I I .

On the back of the Paper in an ancient hand is written,

Kent Cherfys.

*Cop' Lrē R^s R. iij p'suaden' subditos suos ad resistendu' Henr' Tyd-
der postea Regem Anglie ac declaran' a quo idem Henr' descen-
debat.*

R. R. R'cus etc, Salt'm, Precipimus tibi, &c.

FORASMOCHE as the Kyng our Sou'reign Lord hath cer-
teyn knowlege that Piers Bisshop of ¹ Exeter Jasper ² Tyd-
der son of Owen Tydder callyng hymself Erle of Pembroke
John late Erle of ³ Oxon and Sr. Edward ⁴ Wodevyle with other
dyv's his rebelles and traytours disabled and atteynted by the
auctorite of the High Court of Parlement of whom many be
knownen for open murdrers advouters and extorcioners contr̄y
to the pleasure of God and a yenf̄ all trouth hono^r and nature
have forsakyn there naturall contrey takyng them first to be under
thobeifaunce of the Duke of ⁵ Bretayn and to hym p'mysed
certeyn thyngs whiche by him and his counsell were thought

This Addrefs of King Richard to his People, is drawn up in the most artful manner, in order to inflame the minds, not only of the Multitude, but of the Peers, Bishops, Dignitaries, and great men, and to induce them to resist the attempts of the Earl of Richmond upon the Crown with all their power.

¹ Peter Courtney, Bishop of Exeter, after the miscarriage of the Duke of Buckingham's Conspiracy, fled into Bretagne, to the Earl of Richmond, who, after he became Henry VII. promoted this Prelate to the See of Winchester, in 1486, in which he died in 1492.

thynggs

L E T T E R I I I .

On the back of the Paper in an ancient hand is written,

Kent Sheriffs.

The Copy of a Letter of King Richard III. persuading his Subjects to resist Henry Tydder [Tudor] afterwards King of England, and declaring from whom the said Henry was descended.

RICHARD R.

Richard, &c. wisheth health, we command you, &c.

FORASMUCH as the King, our Sovereign Lord, hath certain knowledge that Piers, Bishop of ¹Exeter, Jasper ²Tydder [*Tudor*], Son of Owen Tydder, calling himself Earl of Pembroke, John, late Earl of ³Oxford, and Sir Edward ⁴Wodevile, with others diverse, his Rebels and Traitors, disabled and attainted by the authority of the High Court of Parliament, of whom many be known for open Murderers, Advowterers [*Adulterers*], and Extortioners, contrary to the pleasure of God, and against all truth, honour and nature, have forsaken their natural country, taking them first to be under the obedience of the Duke of ⁵Bretagne and to him promised certain things, which by him and his Council, were thought things

² Jasper Tudor de Hatfield, half brother to Henry VI. created Duke of Bedford in 1485.

³ John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who had escaped from the Castle of Hammes.

⁴ Sir Edward Wodevile, brother to the Queen of Edward IV.

⁵ Francis II. the last Duke of Bretagne, was overthrown by Charles VIII. King of France, and died in 1488.

thynggs to gretly unnaturall and abominable for them to g'unt observe kepe and p'fourme and therefore the same utterly refused.

The feid Traytours seyng the feid Duke and his Counsell wolde not aide nor socour theym ner folowe there weyes privily dep'ted outē of his contrey in to Fraunce and there takyng theym to be under the obeisaunce of the Kynggs auncient enemy ⁶Charlys callyng hymself Kyng of Fraunce and to abuse and blynde the comons of this feid Realme the feid rebelles and traitours have chosyn to be there Capteyn one Henry ⁷Tydder Son of Edmond Tydder son of Owen Tydder whiche of his ambicioneys and infociable covetise encrocheth and usurpid upon hym the name and title of royall astate of this realme of Englund where unto he hath no man^r int^rest right title or color as ev^ry man wele knoweth for he is discended of bastard blood bothe of ffather side and of mother side for the feid Owen the g'unfader was bastard borne and his moder was doughter unto John Duke of Som^rset son unto John Erle of Som^rset sone unto Dame Kat'yne Swynford and of ther indouble ⁸Avoutry gotyn wherby it evidently apperith that no title can nor may in hym which fully entendeth to entre this reame p'posyng a conquest and if he shulde atcheve his fals entent and p'pose ev^ry man is lif livelod and goddes shulde be in his hands lib^rte and disposicon wherby sholde ensue the disheretyng and distruccion of all the noble and worshipfull blode of this reame for ev^r and to the

⁶ Charles VIII. ascended the throne in 1483, and died in 1498.

⁷ Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who, in 1483, became King of England, &c. by the title of Henry VII. He died in 1509.

too greatly unnatural and abominable, for them to grant, observe, keep, and perform, and therefore the same utterly refused.

The said Traitors seeing the said Duke and his Council would not aid nor succour them nor follow their ways, privily departed out of his Country into France, and there taking them to be under the obeyfance of the King's ancient Enemy, ⁶ Charles, calling himself King of France, and to abuse and blind the Commons of this said Realm, the said Rebels and Traitors have chosen to be their Captain one Henry ⁷ Tydder [*Tudor*], Son of Edmund Tydder, son of Owen Tydder, which of his ambitious and insatiable covetise [*Covetousness*] encroacheth and usurpeth upon him, the name and title of Royal Estate of this realm of England; whereunto he hath no manner of interest, right, title or colour, as every man well knoweth; for he is descended of bastard blood, both of father's side, and of mother's side; for the said Owen the Grandfather, was bastard born; and his mother was daughter unto John, Duke of Somerset, son unto John, Earl of Somerset, son unto Dame Katherine Swynford, and of their indouble ⁸ Avoutry gotten; whereby it evidently appeareth, that no title can nor may in him, which fully intendeth to enter this realm, proposing a conquest; and if he should atchieve his false intent and purpose, every man's life, livelihood, and goods, shall be in his hands, liberty, and disposition; whereby should ensue the disheriting and destruction of all the noble and worshipful blood of this realm for ever, and

⁸ This either means double Adultery, that is Adultery on both sides; or indubitable, undoubted Adultery.

resistance and withstanding wherof ev^y true and naturall English man born must ley to his hands for his owen fuerte and wele And to thentent that the seid Henry Tydder myght the rather atcheve his fals intent and p^pose by the aide supporte and assistance of the Kynggs seid auncient enemy of Fraunce hath covenⁿted and bargayned with hym and all the counsell of Fraunce to geve up and relese inp^petuite all the right title and cleyne that the Kyng of Englonde have had and ought to have to the crowne and reame of Fraunce to gether with the Duchies of Normandy Anjoy and Maygne Gascoyn and Guyne Cascell and townys of Caley Guyfnes Hammes with the Marches app^pteynnyng to the same and discevir and exclude the Armes of Fraunce oute of the Armes of Englonde for ev^r.

And in more p^pve and shewing of his seid p^pose of conquest the seid Henry Tydder hath given as well to dyv^rs of the seid Kynggs enemys as to his seid rebelles and traitours Archebishops Bishoppes and other dignitees sp^puels, and also the Duchees Erledomes Baronies and other possessions and inheritances of Knyghts Squyres Gentilmen and other the Kynggs true subjets withynne the reame and entendith also to chaunge and subv^rte the lawes of the same and to enduce and establishe newe lawes and ordeⁿnes amongez the Kynggs seid Subjets and ov^r this and beside the alienacons of all the p^pmysses into the possession of the Kynggs seid auncient enemys to the grettest *anyntifshment shame and rebuke that ev^r myght falle to this seid
land

to the resistance and withstanding whereof every true and natural Englishman born, must lay to his hands for his own surety and weal.

And to the intent that the said Henry Tydder might the rather achieve his false intent and purpose by the aid, support, and assistance of the King's ancient enemy of France, (*he*) hath covenanted and bargained with him, and all the Council of France, to give up and release in perpetuity all the right, title, and claim, that the King of England have had, and ought to have, to the Crown and Realm of France, together with the Duchies of Normandy, Anjou and Mayne, Gascoign and Guyfnes, Cassell, and the towns of Calais, Guyfnes, Hammes, with the Marches appertaining to the same, and dissever and exclude the Arms of France out of the Arms of England for ever.

And in more proof and shewing, of his said purpose of conquest, the said Henry Tydder hath given [*given*], as well to divers of the said King's Enemies, as to his said Rebels and Traitors, Archbishopricks, Bishopricks, and other Dignities spiritual; and also the Duchies, Earldoms, Baronies, and other Possessions and Inheritances of Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen, and other the King's true Subjects within the realm; and intendeth also to change and subvert the Laws of the same, and to enduce [*introduce*] and establish new Laws and Ordinances amongst the King's said subjects.

And over this, and besides the Alienations of all the premises into the possession of the King's said ancient Enemies, to the greatest * anyntishment [*annihilation*], shame, and rebuke, that ever

* Aneantisement—anientified is used by Chaucer, in his Tale of Melebeus, for reducing to nothing.

land The feid Henry Tydder and others the Kynggs rebelles and traitours aforeseid have extended at there comyng if they may be of power to do the most cruell murders slaughterys and roberys and disherifons that ev^r were seen in eny cristen Reame ffor the wich and other inestymable daungers to be escheuved and to thentent that the Kynggs feid rebelles traitours and enemys may be utt^rly put from there feid malicious and fals p'pose and sone discomforted if they ⁹ enforce to land The Kyng our Sov^raign Lord willith chargeth and comaundith all and ev^ryche of the naturall and true subgetts of this his Reame to call the p'myffez to there mynds and like gode and true Englishmen to endov^r themselves with all there powers for the defence of them there wifs childeryn and godes and heriditaments ayenst the feid malicious p'poses and conspiracons which the feid auncient enemies have made with the Kynggs feid rebelles and traitours for the fynall distruccion of this lande as is aforesaid. And our said Sov^raign Lord as a wele willed diligent and coragious Prynce wel put his moost roiall p'sone to all labor and payne necessary in this behalve for the resistance and subdvyng of his feid enemys rebells and traitours to the moost comforte wele and fuerte of all his true and feithfull liege men and subgetts.

And ov^r this our feid Sov^raign Lord willith and comaundith all his feid subgetts to be redy in there most defensible arraye to do his highnes f'vyce of werre when thy be opyn p'clamacion

⁹ Or rather, make good their landing by force.

might fall to this said land, the said Henry Tydder and others, the King's Rebels and Traitors afore said, have extended [*intended*] at their coming, if they may be of power, to do the most cruel murders, slaughters, and robberies, and disherisons, that ever were seen in any Christian Realm.

For the which, and other inestimable dangers to be eschewed, and to the intent that the King's said Rebels, Traitors, and Enemies, may be utterly put from their said malicious and false purpose and soon discomfited, if they ⁹ enforce [*endeavour*] to land,

The King our Sovereign Lord willeth, chargeth, and commandeth, all and every of the natural and true subjects of this his Realm, to call the premises to their minds, and like good and true Englishmen to endower [*furnish*] themselves with all their powers for the defence of them, their wives, children, and goods, and hereditaments, against the said malicious purposes and conspirations, which the said ancient enemies have made with the King's said Rebels and Traitors, for the final destruction of this land, as is afore said.

And our said Sovereign Lord, as a well willed, diligent, and courageous Prince, will put his most royal person to all labour and pain necessary in this behalf, for the resistance and subduing of his said enemies, rebels, and traitors, to the most comfort, weel, and surety of all his true and faithful liege men and subjects.

And over this, our said Sovereign Lord willeth and commandeth all his said Subjects, to be ready in their most defensible array, to do his Highness service of war, when they by open
procla-

or otherwise shall be comaunded so to do for resistence of the Kynggs seid rebelles traitours and enemyes.

Et hoc sub p'iclo, &c.

T me ips' apud Westm' xxiiij die 1^o Junij anno R ñ sedo.

11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Paper Mark,
The Letter P.
Quaterfoil and Bar.
Pl. XIII. N^o 1.

¹⁰ Some of our Historians say, that King Richard was proclaimed on the 20th, and others, on the 22d of June 1483; the 23d of June, in the second year of his reign, must therefore be in 1484.

L E T T E R III.

To o' trusty and welbeloved John Paston 'Sheriff of Suff' and Norff'.

The Duc of Suff'.

RIGHT welbeloved we grete you well And for asmuche as the King o' Sov'eigne Lord hath late addressed his Letters of Comission undre his seale unto us, reciting by the same that his highnesse undrestondith certayn his rebells affociate to

This being an original Proclamation signed by the Duke of Suffolk, in obedience to the King's Commands, I have inserted it.

And the Paper Mark being similar to that on the paper which contained the Copy of the Proclamation, dated the 23d of June, 1484, 2 R. III. shows that that Copy was taken at the time from the Original.

his

proclamation, or otherwise shall be commanded so to do, for resistance of the King's said Rebels, Traitors, and Enemies. And this under peril, &c.

Witness myself at Westminster, the 23d day of ¹⁰ June in the second year of our Reign.

Westminster,
Wednesday, 23d of June,
1483, 2 R. III.

Autographs, Pl. VII. N^o. 1 and 2, are taken from Originals, in the possession of Thomas Astle, Esquire.

L E T T E R IV.

To our trusty and well beloved John Paston, ¹ Sheriff of Suffolk and Norfolk.

The Duke of Suffolk.

RIGHT well beloved, we greet you well; and forasmuch as the King our Sovereign Lord hath late addressed his Letters of Commission under his Seal unto us, reciting by the same that his Highness understanding certain of his Rebels,

¹ John Paston, Esquire, was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk on the accession of Henry VII. he most probably therefore entered upon that office at Michaelmas, 1484, 2 R. III. this Letter being dated on the 20th of October.

his old Enmys of Scotland, entending not only to trowble his peax, the nobles and subjects of this Realme to destroy their goods and possessions to spoill and reward at thair lib'ties. But also the lawes of this lond and holy chirche to subvert.

Our said moost drad Soverayn Lord, as a Cristen Prince
² his said Enmys and Rebels to resist hath
 assigned and comaunded us to do all man^r and others
 defensible able to labo^r as well Archers as * Hobbyllers, to come
 before us and charge them armed and arayed ev^{ry}
 man afre his degre and power to attend uppon his p'son and
 uppon us to do him f'rvice in defence as well of the Chirche,
 as of the said Nobles and subjects of this Realm against his
 said Enmys and Rebels. We therfore wull and in our said
 Sov^{reigne} Lords name straitly charge and comaunde you that
 in all possible hast ye do this to be p'clamed. And that all
 man^r men able to do the King f'rvice as well Knights Esquiers
 and Gentlemen, as Townships and Hundreds, as well w'in
 franchise and lib'tes as w'out w'in the Counties of Suff' and
 Norff' And that they be charged to be redy at all tymes uppon
 an howre warnyng and ordered according to the last Comission
 afore this, to attend uppon his Grace and uppon us to do him
 f'rvice whatsoever they shalbe comaunded, not failing herof as ye
 wull answer at yo^r. p'ile Goven at ³Long Stratton the xx
 day of October.

² The Letter is defective in those places where dots are used.

³ In Norfolk.

And

associate to his old Enemies of Scotland; intending not only to trouble his peace; the Nobles and Subjects of this Realm to destroy, their Goods and Possessions to spoil, and reward at their liberties; but also the Laws of this Land, and Holy Church to subvert.

Our said most dread Sovereign Lord, as a Christian Prince² his said Enemies and Rebels to resist, hath assigned and commanded us to do all manner and others defensible able to labour, as well Archers as * Hobbellers to come before us and charge them armed and arrayed every man after his degree and power, to attend upon his Person, and upon us, to do him service, in defence as well of the Church, as of the said Nobles and Subjects of this Realm, against his said Enemies and Rebels. We therefore will, and, in our said Sovereign Lord's name, straitly charge and command you, that in all possible haste ye do [*cause*] this to be proclaimed: And that all manner (*of*) men, able to do the King service, as well Knights, Esquires, and Gentlemen; as Townships and Hundreds, as well within Franchises and Liberties as without, within the Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk; and that they be charged to be ready at all times, upon an hour's warning, and ordered according to the last Commission afore this, to attend upon his Grace and upon us to do him service, whensoever they shall be commanded; not failing hereof, as ye will answer at your peril.

Given at ³ Long Stratton, the 20th day of October.

* Hoblers, or Hobilers, so called from the Hobbies, or diminutive horses on which they rode; or more probably from *Hobilles*, the short jackets they wore. They were light horsemen, and proved of considerable service to Edward III. in his French expeditions. By the tenure of their lands they were obliged to maintain their nags, and were expected to be in readiness, when sudden invasions happened, to spread immediate intelligence of them throughout the Country.

And forthermore that ye yeve credence unto or f'vūt this Bringer, as this fame day we receyved the Kings cōmissiōn at iiij aftre none.

* Suffolk por Frende.

Paper Mark,
The Letter P, and Quaterfoil.
Pl. XIII. N^o 3.
11 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

* John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, &c. he died in 1491. Pl. VII. N^o 3.

L E T T E R U.

To my ryght worschipful Husbond John Paston

RYGH^T worschipful husbond I recomaund me onto you plese it you to wete that I sent your eldest Sunne to my Lady ¹ Morlee to have knolage wat Sports wer husyd in her hows in Kyrstemesse next folloyng aftyr the decyffe of my Lord her husbond and sche feyd that yer wer non Dysgyfyngs ner harpyng ner lutyng ner syngyn ner nō lowde Dysports but pleyng at the Tabyllys and Scheffe and Cards sweche Dysports Sche gave her folkys leve to play and nō odyr.

Your Sunne dede hese heyrne ryght wele as ye shal her aftyr yis. I sent your yonger Sunne to the Lady ² Stabylton and

We are here acquainted with the Diversions and Amusements allowed in the Houses of the Nobility and Gentry during the joyous season of Christmas.

We see likewise the Respect paid to the Memory of the Head of a Family, when, at the Christmas following his Death, none of the more merry or noisy Disports were permitted.

Sche

And furthermore that ye give credence unto our Servant this Bringer, as this fame day we received the King's Commission at four in the Afternoon.

⁴ SUFFOLK, your Friend.

Long Stratton,
Wednesday, 20th of October,
1484, 2 R. III.

L E T T E R V.

To my right worshipful husband John Paston.

RIGHT worshipful husband, I recommend me unto you; Please it you to weet, that I sent your eldest Son to my Lady ¹ Morley, to have knowledge what Sports were used in her house in Christmas next following, after the decease of my Lord her husband; and she said, that there were none Disguisings, nor Harping, nor Luting, nor Singing, nor none loud Disports; but playing at the Tables, and Chefs, and Cards; such disports she gave her Folks leave to play and none other.

Your Son did his errand right well as ye shall hear after this. I sent your younger Son to the Lady ² Stapleton, and she said

¹ Widow of William Lovel, Lord Morley, who died the 23d of July, 1475.

² Sir Miles Stapleton died in 1466.

Sche feyd acordyng to my Lady Morlees feyng in that and as Sche hadde feyn hufyd in placis of worschip yer as sche hathe beyn.

I pray you that ye woll asur to you some man at Caster to kepe yor Botry for the mane that ye lefte w^t me woll not take upon hym to ³ breve dayly as ye cōmandyt, he feyth he hath not usyd to geve a rekenyng nothyr of bred nor alle tyll at the wekys end, and he feyth he wot well that he shuld not condenyth and therfor I soppoffe he shall not abyd, and I trow ye shall be fayne to p'veye another man for Symond for ye har never the nerer a wyffe man for hym.

I ham sory that ye shall not at hom be for Crystemes.

I p̄y you that ye woll come as sone as ye may, I shall thynke myself halfe a wedow because ye shal not be at home, &c. God have you in hys kepyng. Wretyn on Crestemes evyn.

By yor s^d M. P.

12 by 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.

³ To breve, is to make up an account. How strictly this custom of *breving* was formerly observed in great houses, may be known from one of the *daily* rules, enforced in the family of the fifth Earl of Northumberland.

“Furst, that the said Clerkis be dayly at the *Brewynge* every day by vii of the cloke in the mornyng. And theire to *Breve* every Officer accordyng as the custome is unto half howre after viii of the cloke. And that theire be no Brackfasts delyveret unto the tyme that all the Officers have *Breved*.”——See *Household Book*, p. 59.

As this Letter has no date of the year, I have had some doubts where to place it, unless we may suppose that the same respect would be paid to the memory of Margaret, Mother of J. Paston, who was an Heiress, and died in 1484, and whose will was proved on the 18th of December in that year.

LCC.

according to my Lady Morley's saying in that; and as she had seen used in places of worship thereas [*where*] she hath been.

I pray you that ye will assure to you some man at Caister, to keep your Buttery, for the man that ye left with me will not take upon him to ³ breve daily as ye commanded; he saith, he hath not used to give a reckoning neither of Bread nor Ale, till at the week's end, and he saith, he wot [*knows*] well that he should not condeneth [*give content*], and therefore I suppose he shall not abide, and I trow ye shall be fain [*glad*] to purvey another man for Symond, for ye are never the nearer a wise man for him.

I am sorry that ye shall not at home be for Christmas.

I pray you that ye will come as soon as ye may; I shall think myself half a Widow, because ye shall not be at home, &c. God have you in his keeping. Written on Christmas Even.

By your ^s MARGERY PASTON.

Friday, 24th of December,
1484, 2 R. III.

If I could have placed it earlier, I should have fixed upon the Death of Sir John Paston, in November 1479, as the time of its being written; but the present J. Paston was not married till 1477, and his eldest Son being born in 1478, was now only in his seventh year, which might be the case, as the expression that he "dede hese heyne ryght wele," implies his being very young.

^s Autograph. Pl. VII. N° 7.

LET-

L E T T E R U J.

To my welbelovyd frend John Paston be thys byll delyveryd in hast.

WELBELOVYD frend I cūmaunde me to yow letyng yow to undyrstond that y^e Kyngs Enmyffe be a land and y^e the Kyng wold hafe set forthe as uppon Monday but only for howre ¹ Lady day but for ferten he gothe forward as uppon tewsfday for a frvant of myne browt to me the fertente.

Wherfor I pray yow that ye met w^t me at ² Bery for be the grace of God I purposse to lye at Bery as uppon tewsfday nyght and that ye brynge w^t yow seche cōpany of tall mē as ye may goodly make at my cost and charge be feyd that ye have p^rmysyd the Kyng and I pray yow ordeyne them ³ Jakets of my Levery and I shall cōtente yow at yo^r metyng w^t me.

Power lover,

J. Norfolk.

8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 5.

Henry, Earl of Richmond, landed upon Saturday the 6th of August, 1485, at Milford Haven, in South Wales; this Letter therefore could not be written before the Friday or Saturday following (12 or 13th of August).

Richard appears not to have regarded the landing of the Earl as a matter of that great importance which it soon became; for as a valiant Prince he certainly would have set forwards to meet his Competitor as soon as possible; and however great his veneration might have been for the day of "the Assumption of our Lady," yet his fears of losing a Crown, for the possession of which he had ventured every thing, would have been still greater; and would have prompted him to break in upon the services due to our Lady.

The Duke of Norfolk survived the writing of this Letter only a few days, for he joined his Royal Master, and commanded the Vanguard of his Army in the Field of Bosworth, where he fell on Monday the 22d of August, valiantly fighting for his Sovereign Lord and Benefactor. Pl. VII. N^o 4.

L C C-

L E T T E R VI.

To my well beloved Friend John Paston, be this bill delivered in haste.

WELL beloved Friend, I commend me to you, letting you to understand that the King's Enemies be a-land, and that the King would have set forth as upon Monday, but only for our ¹ Lady day; but for certain he goeth forward as upon Tuesday, for a Servant of mine brought to me the certainty.

Wherefore I pray you, that ye meet with me at ² Bury, for, by the Grace of God, I purpose to lie at Bury as upon Tuesday night; and that ye bring with you such Company of tall men as ye may goodly make at my cost and charge, besides that which ye have promised the King; and, I pray you, ordain them ³ Jackets of my Livery, and I shall content you at your meeting with me.

Your Lover,

J. NORFOLK.

Between the 8th and 15th of August,

1485, 3 R. III.

¹ The Assumption of our Lady, 15th of August.

² Bury St. Edmund's in Suffolk.

³ From this it appears that the royal army, when embodied, was clothed in Jackets of the Livery of the respective great Lords and Commanders.

The Editor cannot help remarking, that he feels a pleasing satisfaction at the thought, that the Original Letter now lying before him, and which he has just now transcribed, &c. has this day, Friday the 12th of August, 1785, been written (most probably) exactly three hundred years. During this Period ten generations of the Howards have passed away; the present Duke of Norfolk, now in his 65th year, being the tenth in lineal Descent from the noble Writer of this Letter.

L E T T E R U J J.

*To my Right trusty and welbeloved Son Sir John Paston
be yr. delyu'ed.*

SON Paston I Recommaunde me to you in my moſte hertely
maner and wher I underſtande be my Doghter Lovell ye
deſyre to know whedir I woll have y^e bargane ye made for me
in Norwich or nay, and if I wol I moſte content therfor now in
mercs, Son in good faith it is ſo I ſhal Receyve no money
of the Revenowſe of my lyvelod afor' mydfōme^r and alſo I
have payd accordyng to my p'miſe to Sir William Cabell a great
payment y^e which ye knowe wel was due to be payde ſo that I
can not be of power to content therfor', for the which I am
right fory for I know well I ſhall never have ſuch a bargane,
Alſo my Doghtyr Lovell makith great ſute and labor for my ſone
hir huſbande S^r. Edwarde ffranke hath be'n in the north to
inquire for h̄y he is comyn agayne and cane nogth underſtonde
wher he is. Wherfor' her Benevolers willith hir to continue hir
ſute

This is in ſome degree a private Letter of Buſineſs, and ſhews the Lady to be a
Purchaſer (I ſuppoſe) of Eſtates. She was the Widow of Henry, Lord Fitzhugh, Baron
of Ravenſworth, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and Siſter to Richard,
the great Earl of Warwick. Pl. vii. N^o 5.

Francis, Viſcount Lovell, the Huſband of her Daughter, was at this time concealed, in
conſequence of the part he had taken in favour of his royal Maſter Richard III. to whom
he had been Lord Chamberlain, and in whoſe confidence he held the firſt place. He
afterwards

L E T T E R VII.

*To my Right trusty and well beloved Son, Sir John Paston,
be this delivered.*

SON Paston, I recommend me to you, in my most heartily manner; and where(as) I understand by my Daughter Lovell, ye desire to know whether I will have the bargain ye made for me in Norwich, or nay; and if I will, I must content therefore now in marks. Son, in good faith it is so, I shall receive no money of the Revenue of my livelihood afore Midsummer; and also I have paid according to my promise to Sir William Cabell a great payment, the which ye know well was due to be paid, so that I cannot be of power to content therefore; for the which I am right sorry, for I know well I shall never have such a bargain. Also my Daughter Lovell maketh great suit and labour for my Son her Husband. Sr. Edward Franke hath been in the North to inquire for him; he is come again, and can nought understand where he is. Wherefore her Benevolers [*well-wishers*] willeth her to continue her suit and

afterwards joined in the plot of Lambert Simnel, and was killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487.

The hand-writing of this Letter is the same throughout, and appears to be the hand of a Secretary, rather than that of a Lady, but whether it be so or not must remain a doubt.

It was written after the Accession of Henry VII. but as it contains an Anecdote of Lord Lovel, the Favourite of Richard III. I have inserted it here.

fute and labo' And so I can not dep'te nor leve hir as ye know well, and if I might be ther' I wold be full glad as knowith o'. Lorde God whoo have you in his bliffid kepynge ffrom London the xxiiijth day of ffebruary.

Ur loving Moder,

Alise Lady Fitzhugh.

9 by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Under the Direction in a hand more modern is written, "Lrā Dn'e ffitzhugh sed
" ob quā causam vocat p'd'tum Johēm filiū suū adhuc ignoro."

Paper Mark,
A Star of eight points, sur-
mounted by a Coronet.
Pl. XIII. N° 5.

L E T T E R U III.

*To my Right trusti and welbiloved John Paston Shrieve of
Norff' and Suff'.*

RIGHT trusti and welbiloved I Recomaund me unto you
And for as moche as I ame credibly enfourmed that
Fraunceis late Lorde Lovell is now of late resorted into the yle
of Ely to the entente by alle lykelyhod to finde the waies and
meanes

As this and the preceding Letter relate to a Nobleman, who was the Lord Cham-
berlain, and Favourite of Richard III. I have given them a place here, though
they were not written till after the Death of this King, and the Accession of Henry VII.

labour; and so I cannot depart nor leave her as ye know well; and if I might be there, I would be full glad, as knoweth our Lord God, who have you in his blessed keeping. From London, the 24th day of February.

Your loving Mother,

ALISE Lady FITZHUGH.

London,
24th of February,
1485.

L E T T E R VIII.

To my right trusty and well beloved John Paston, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

RIGHT trusty and well beloved, I recommend me unto you; and forasmuch as I am credibly informed, that Francis, late Lord Lovell, is now of late resorted into the Isle of Ely, to the intent by all likelihood, to find the ways and

In this Letter we see the anxiety of the new King and his Friends, for the apprehension of the late Lord Lovell, who had been attainted after the Battle of Bosworth.

He however escaped all pursuit, and got safe to the Duchefs of Burgundy, by whose persuation he afterwards joined in the plot of Lambert Simnel, and attending him to England, was killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487.

X x 2

means

meanes to gete him shipping and passage in yo^r costes or ellis to Resorte ageyn to Seintuary if he can or maie.

I therfor hertily desire and praie you And nev^rthelesse in the King's name streitly chargie you that ye in all goodly haste endevore yo^r self that suche wetcche or other meanes be used and hadde in the Poorts and Creks and othre places wher ye thinke necessary by your Discrecion to the letting of his seid purpose And that ye also use all the waies ye can or maie by your wisdom to the taking of the same late Lorde Lovell And what pleasur ye maie do to the Kings g[']ce in this matier I am sure is not to you unknowen. And God kepe you.

Wretyn at Lavenh'm the xix day of May.

¹ Margaret Drynford.

12 by 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

² Margaret, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, and Sister of Richard, the great Earl of Warwick, was the first wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. During the imprisonment of her Husband, in the reign of Edward IV. she supported herself by working with her needle, &c. Pl. VII. N^o 6. The Earl himself, in the reign of Henry VII. became a man of great consequence in the state, and died in 1512, 4 Hen. VIII.

The male branch of this noble family of the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, has been extinct from the beginning of this century; but there are still several noble families descended from the female branches, particularly that of Townshend, of Rainham, in Norfolk, the present Lord Viscount Townshend being a lineal descendant from Mary, the daughter and coheir of the famous Horatio, Lord Vere of Tilbury.

means to get him shipping and passage in your coasts, or else to resort again to Sanctuary, if he can or may.

I therefore heartily desire and pray you, and nevertheless, in the King's name, straitly charge you, that ye in all goodly haste endeavour yourself, that such watch, or other means be used and had in the Ports, and Creeks, and other places, where ye think necessary by your discretion, to the letting of his said purpose; and that ye also use all the ways ye can or may by your wisdom, to the taking of the same late Lord Lovell; and what pleasure ye may do to the King's Grace in this matter, I am sure is not to you unknown; and God keep you.

Written at Lavenham, the 19th day of May.

† MARGARET OXYNFORD.

Lavenham, in Suffolk,
Friday, 19th of May,
1486.

The Seal of this Letter has the Impression of a Head. Pl. xiv. N^o 27.

accuses to get him shipping and passage in your coffee, or else
to resort again to sanctuary, if he can or may.
I therefore heartily desire and pray you, and nevertheless, in
the King's name, heartily charge you, that ye in all goodly hallo
endeavour yourself, that such watch, or other means be used
and had in the Port, and Creeks, and other places, where ye
think necessary by your discretion, to the letting of his said
purpose; and that ye also use all the ways you can or may by
your wisdom, to the taking of the same Lord Lovell;
and what pleasure ye may do to the King's Grace in this
matter, I am sure is not to your own loss, and God keep you.
Written at Lavenham, the 10th day of May, 1535.

MARGARET OXYFORD.

Lavenham, in Suffolk.
Friday, 10th of May,
1535.

The last of this letter is the property of the

C O N C L U S I O N.

R E A D E R,

WE have now finished our progress through the distant period of English History described in these Letters.

If you have received any pleasure from the Rarity of the Scenes, from the Manners of the Times, or from the curious Information, which you may have acquired, I shall be happy; and shall consider the care, trouble, and attention, which I have bestowed, in smoothing the Road, in improving the Landscape, and in erecting a few Guide-Posts for your ease and direction, as having been employed for an useful purpose.

“ Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.”

East-Dereham, Norfolk,
Monday, 22d of August, 1785,
25 Geo. III.

J^d Fenn

C O N C L U S I O N .

READER.

WE have now finished our progress through the distant period of English History described in these letters. If you have received any pleasure from the Raising of the Stones, from the Manners of the Times, or from the curious information, which you may have acquired, I shall be happy, and shall consider the care, trouble, and attention, which I have bestowed, in finishing the Road, in improving the Landscape, and in erecting a few Guide-Poles for your ease and direction, as having been employed for an useful purpose.

"Hoffen er hat ein wenigstens Jacobin."

Edinburgh, Scotland.
Monday, 22d of August, 1785.
J. G. III.

J. G. III.

A
C A T A L O G U E
OF THE
ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

A LIST OF THE
PLATES, and NUMBERS thereon.

A N
EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS.
The PLATES of AUTOGRAPHS, N° I. II. III. IV. V. VI. VII.
The PLATES of PAPER-MARKS, N° VIII. IX. X. XI. XII. XIII.
The PLATE of SEALS, N° XIV.

VOL. II.

Y y

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

HENRY VI.

V O L . I.

Auto- graphs. Pl.	N ^o	Letters From and to whom.	
II.	19	1	AGNES Paston, to Sir William Paston.
II.	17	2	Robert Reppes, to John Paston.
I.	3	3	Mowbray (duke of) Norff', to John Paston, esquire.
II.	18	4	John Northwood, to John, viscount Beaumont.
I.	5	5	Henry (duke of) Buckingham, to viscount Beaumont.
II.	14	6	William Yelverton, justice, to John Paston, esquire.
III.	28	7	James Gresham, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	25	8	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
I.	6	9	Suffolk (duke of) to his Son John.
II.	26	10	William Lomner, to John Paston.
III.	29	11	John Crane, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	15	12	John Fastolf, Knight, to sir Thomas Howes, Cl.
III.	30	13	Payn John, to John Paston.
I.	4	14	Richard, duke of York's petition to the king.
II.	20	15	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	21	16	Wyllyam Paston, to John Paston.
II.	23	17	William Botoner, to John Paston.
III.	31	18	Edmund Clere, to John Paston.
I.	7	19	Richard, erle of Warwyke, to sir Thomas Todenham.
I.	7	20	Richard (earl of) Warrewyk, to John Paston, esquire.
I.	4	21	Richard (duke of) York, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	16	22	. . . duchesse of Norff', to John Paston, esquire.
I.	8	23	Oxenford (John E. of) to John Paston.
III.	29	24	John Crane, to John Paston.
II.	27	25	W. B. to William Worcester.
III.	32	26	Henry Wyndesore, to John Bokking, and William Worcester.
III.	28	27	James Gresham, to John Paston.
II.	15	28	John Fastolf, to John Paston, &c.
I.	9	29	T. (archbishop of) Canterbury, to sir John Fastolf.
I.	11	30	John, lord Lovell, to viscount Beaumont.
III.	33	31	John Bokkyng, to John Paston.
III.	33	32	John Bokkyng, to John Paston, esquire.

With their DATES, AUTOGRAPHS, and PAPER-MARKS.

H E N R Y VI.

V O L. I.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. N ^o
1	About 1440, 18 H. 6.		
2	1 November, 1440, 19 H. 6.	An animal with one horn.	VIII. 1
3	18.—before 1444, 23 H. 6.		
4	Between 1440 and 1450, 18 and 28 H. 6.	Bull's or goat's head.	VIII. 3
5	17 March, between 1444 & 55, 23 & 35 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
6	4 Oct. between 1444 & 60, 23 & 39 H. 6.		
7	18 October, 1449, 28 H. 6.		
8	12 March, 1449, 28 H. 6.		
9	April, 1450, 28 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
10	5 May, 1450, 28 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
11	6 May, 1450, 28 H. 6.	Cross, &c.	VIII. 6
12	27 May, 1450, 28 H. 6.		
13	June and July, 1450, 28 H. 6.	{ YHS, surrounded by a radiated star of 16 points. A pillar. A flower.	VIII. 5
14	1451, 30 H. 6.		VIII. 7
15	21 April, 1452, 30 H. 6.		VIII. 8
16	1452, or 53, 30 or 31 H. 6.		
17	8 June, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
18	10 January, 1454, 33 H. 6.		
19	2 November, before 1455, 33 H. 6.		
20	23 August, before 1460, 38 H. 6.	Cross keys.	VIII. 9
21	19 August, 1454 or 55, 32 or 33 H. 6.		
22	8 June		
23	18 October, before 1455, 33 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head.	IX. 10
24	25 May, 1455, 33 H. 6.	A pair of shears.	IX. 11
25	June, 1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull.	IX. 10
26	20 July, 1455, 33 H. 6.		
27	28 October, 1455, 34 H. 6.		
28	5 February, 1455, 34 H. 6.		
29	27 March, between 1454 & 59, 32 & 38 H. 6.		
30	24 July, between 1455 & 60, 33 & 39 H. 6.		
31	15 May, 1456, 34 H. 6.		
32	7 June, 1456, 34 H. 6.		

Auto- graphs. Pl.	N ^o	Letters From and to whom.	
I.	12	33	(Thomas lord) Scales, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	24	34	William Botoner, to John Paston, esquire, &c.
II.	19	35	Augnes Paston, to
I.	10	36	Richard (earl of) Salisbury, to viscount Beaumont.
II.	24	37	William Botoner, dit. Worcester, to sir John Fastolf.
III.	33	38	John Bokkyng, to sir John Fastolf.
III.	34	39	John Jernyngan, to Margaret Paston.
III.	35	40	 Denyes, to John Paston.
II.	15	41	John Fastolf, to John Paston, &c.
III.	36	42	Henry Fylungley, to sir John Fastolf.
III.	32	43	Henry Wyndesore, to John Paston.
II.	25	44	Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
III.	33	45	John Bokkyng, to William Yelverton, J. Paston, &c.
II.	24	46	William Botoner, called Wyrcester, to John Berney, esquire.
II.	21	47	William Paston, to John Paston.
II.	13	48	(lord) Molyns, to William, bishop of Winchester.
II.	13	49	R. H. lord Molyns, to tenants of Gresham.
II.	16	50	Elianore, duchess of Norff', to viscount Beaumont.
III.	37	51	Xpofer Hauston, to John Paston, esquire.
II.	22	52	Clement Paston, to John Paston.
III.	38	53	Robert Wenyngham, to Thomas Danyel, esquire.

E D W A R D IV.

II.	21	}	1	William Paston, and Thomas Playter, to John Paston.
V.	14			
V.	14	2	Thomas Playter, to John Paston, esquire.	
IV. 9 or 11	3	3	John Paston, junior, to	
V.	14	4	Thomas Playter, to John Paston.	
III.	28	5	James Gresham, to John Paston.	
V.	15	6	John Berneye, to John Paston, and William Rokewode, esquires.	
V.	15	7	John Berneye, to John Paston, and William Rokewode, esquires.	
III.	32	8	Henry Wyndesore, to John Paston, esquire.	
A copy.		}	9	Lord Hungerford, to queen Margaret.
V.	16	11	John Wykes, to John Paston, esquire.	
V.	17	12	John Mowth, to John Paston.	
V.	18	13	John Ruffe, to John Paston.	
V.	18	14	John Ruffe, to John Paston.	
IV. 9 or 11	15	15	John Paston, junior, to John Paston.	
V.	14	16	(Thomas) Playter, to John Paston.	
IV.	11	17	John Paston, youngest, to John Paston, eldest son of John Paston.	
V.	19	18	Henry Berry, to John Paston, esquire.	
IV.	11	19	John Paston, youngest, to John Paston, his father.	
IV.	9	20	Sir John Paston, to John Paston, his brother.	
IV.	9	21	John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston, his mother.	
V.	13	22	Wylliam Paston, junior, to John Paston, his brother.	

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. No
33	10 August, 1456, 34 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head, &c.	VIII. 2
34	5 July, 1457, 35 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head, &c.	VIII. 2
35	28 January, 1457, 36 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
36	24 January, 1457, 36 H. 6.		
37	1 February, 1457, 36 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
38	15 March, 1457, 36 H. 6.		
39	1 June, 1458, 36 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	IX. 12
40	13 May, before 1460, 39 H. 6.		
41	18 November, before 1459, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
42	17 July, before 1459, 38 H. 6.	{ Two pales within a lozenge shield, surmounted by a coronet. }	IX. 13
43	August, before 1459, 38 H. 6.		
44	29 April, 1459, 37 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head and star.	VIII. 2
45	7 December, 1459, 38 H. 6.		
46	January, 1459, 38 H. 6.		
47	29 January, 1459, 38 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
48	13 June, between 1457 & 60, 35 & 39 H. 6.		
49	24 March, before 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bunch of Grapes.	IX. 14
50	8 March, before 1460, 39 H. 6.	A pyramid.	IX. 15
51	12 October, 1460, 39 H. 6.		
52	23 January, 1460, 39 H. 6.		
53	H. 6.	A pair of scales.	IX. 16

E D W A R D IV.

1	4 April, 1461, 1 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
2	18 April, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
3	1461, 1 E. 4.		
4	May or June, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
5	21 June, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
6	10 July, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
7	16 July, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
8	4 October, 1461, 1 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
9	30 August, 1461, 1 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
10	March, 1461, 2 E. 4.		
11	25 March, 1462, 2 E. 4.		
12	12 May, 1462, 2 E. 4.		
13	1462, 2 E. 4.		
14	1462, 2 E. 4.	Vinebranch, & bunch of grapes	X. 2
15	1 November, 1462, 2 E. 4.		
16	1462, or 1463, 2 or 3 E. 4.		
17	10 December, 1463, 3 E. 4.		
18	28th January, 1463 or 4, 3 or 4 E. 4.		
19	1 March, 1463, 3 E. 4.		
20	30 April, 1466, 6 E. 4.	A demi bull.	X. 5
21	Between 1466, and 69, 6 and 9 E. 4.	A bunch of grapes.	X. 4
22	23 of February, 1467, 7 E. 4.		

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

E D W A R D IV.

V O L. II.

Auto- graphs. Pl.	Nº	Letters From and to whom
IV.	12	23 JOHN Paston, younger, to Margaret Paston.
V.	20	24 William Ebesham, to sir John Paston.
V.	21	25 Jakys Hawte, to sir John Paston.
V.	22	26 John Aubry, to sir Henry Spelman.
IV.	9	27 John Paston, knight, to John Paston.
IV.	3	28 (John, duke of) Norff', to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	5	29 (John, earl of) Oxynford, to sir John Paston.
IV.	10	30 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	4	31 George, archbishop of York, to sir John Paston.
V.	23	32 For trowyth, to J. Paston.
IV.	1	33 Edward IV. to the { Duke of Clarence, Earl of Warrewyk, and archbishop of York. }
IV.	12	34 John Paston, to sir John Paston
IV.	9	35 John Paston, knight, to John Paston.
IV.	12	36 John Paston, to Margaret Paston, (Henry VI.)
IV.	5	37 (John, earl of) Oxynford, to Thomas Veer, (Henry VI.)
IV.	5	38 (John, earl of) Oxynford, to Henry Spilman, &c. (Henry VI.)
III.	28	39 James Gresham, to sir John Paston, (Henry VI.)
IV.	9	40 Sir John Paston, to his mother.
IV.	6	41 O d to his lady, (<i>Secret.</i>)
IV.	10	42 John Paston, knight, to Margaret, or John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	43 John Paston, knight, to John, or Margaret Paston.
IV.	9	44 John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston.
IV.	9	45 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	12	46 John Paston, to sir John Paston.
V.	24	47 James Arblaster, to John Carenton.
IV.	12	48 John Paston, to sir John Paston.

With their DATES, AUTOGRAPHS, and PAPER-MARKS.

E D W A R D IV.

V O L. II.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. N ^o
23	8 July, 1468, 8 E. 4.	A Catherine wheel.	X. 6
24	1469, 9 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X. 7
		Bull's head and star.	X. 1
25	22 May, 1469, 9 E. 4.		
26	6 July, 1469, 9 E. 4.		
27	1469, or 1474, 9 or 14 E. 4.		
28	26 September, 1469, 9 E. 4.		
29	18 July, 1469 or 70, 9 or 10 E. 4.		
30	Feb. or March, 1469 or 70, 9 or 10 E. 4.	A goat's head.	X 8
31	7 May, between 1466 and 76, 6 and 16 E. 4.		
32	27 March, 1470, 10 E. 4.		
33	9 July, 1470, 10 E. 4.		
34	1470, (1472) 10 E. 4.		
35	5 August, 1470, 10 E. 4.	The Letter R.	XI. 16
36	11 October, 1470, 10 E. 4.		
37	14 March, 1470, 11 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X. 9
38	19 March, 1470, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head & star, with a circle	X. 3
39	End of March, or } 1471, 11 E. 4. beginning of April, }	A pair of shears.	XI. 11
40	18 April, 1471, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	XI. 10
41	April, 1471, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
42	13 or 15 September, 1471, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head.	XI. 12
43	28 September, 1471, 11 E. 4.		
44	8 January, 1471, 11 E. 4.		
45	17 February, 1471, 11 E. 4.		
46	5 June, 1472 (1470) 12 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
47	20 September, 1472, 12 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
48	21 September, 1472, 12 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X. 9

Auto- graphs. Pl.	Nº	Letters From and to whom.
IV.	9	49 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	50 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	51 John Paston, knight, to John, or Margaret Paston.
IV.	9	52 Sir John Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	53 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	54 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	9	55 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	9	56 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	9	57 Sir John Paston, to Edmund Paston.
IV.	7	58 (William lord) Hastings, to { Sir John Middelton. Sir John Paston. }
IV.	9	59 John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston.
V.	13	60 Wyllyam Paston, to sir John Paston.
IV.	9	61 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire, &c.
IV.	10	62 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	9	63 Sir John Paston, to John, or Margaret Paston.
II.	20	64 Margaret Paston, to John Paston.
II.	20	65 Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston.
IV.	12	66 John Paston, to sir John Paston.
IV.	9	67 John Paston, knight, to John, or Margaret Paston.
IV.	9	68 Sir John Paston, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	69 John Paston, knight, to Margaret, or John Paston.
IV.	9	70 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
V.	26	71 Dame Elizabeth Brews, to John Paston.
VI.	27	72 Margery Brews, to John Paston, esquire.
VI.	27	73 Margery Brews, to John Paston, esquire.
VI.	28	74 Thomas Kela, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	12	75 John Paston, to Margaret Paston.
V.	25	76 Thomas Brews, knight, to sir John Paston.
VI.	29	77 John Pympe, to sir John Paston.
VI.	29	*77 John Pympe, to sir John Paston.
IV.	9	78 John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston.
IV.	9	79 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	10	80 John Paston, knight, to John Paston, esquire.
VI.	30	81 Edmund Bedyngfeld, to sir John Paston.
VII.	7	82 Margery Paston, to John Paston.
IV.	9	83 John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston.
II.	20	84 Margaret Paston, to sir John Paston.
IV.	9	85 John Paston, knight, to John, or Margery Paston.
IV.	9	86 John Paston, knight, to Margaret Paston.
IV.	12	87 John Paston, esquire, to Margaret Paston.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper
			Marks. Pl. N ^o
49	4 November, 1472, 12 E. 4.	A demi bull.	X. 5
50	8 and 9 November, 1472, 12 E. 4.	P. and quaterfoil.	XI. 13
51	3 February, 1472, 12 E. 4.		
52	2 April, 1473, 13 E. 4.	Part of a P, &c.	XI. 13
53	15 April, 1473, 13 E. 4.		
54	16 April, 1473, 13 E. 4.	Vinebranch, & bunch of grapes	X. 2
55	18 May, 1473, 13 E. 4.	Bull's head and star.	X. 1
56	3 June, 1473, 13 E. 4.	P. and quaterfoil.	XI. 15
57	5 July, 1473, 13 E. 4.	P. and quaterfoil.	XI. 13
58	16 September, 1473, 13 E. 4.		
59	20 February, 1473, 13 E. 4.		
60	7 March, 1473, 14 E. 4.	An unicorn.	XI. 14
61	20 November, 1474, 14 E. 4.		
62	11 December, 1474, 14 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X. 9
63	17 January, 1474, 14 E. 4.		
64	5 March, 1474, 15 E. 4.		
65	10 August, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
66	23 October, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
67	17 January, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
68	27 January, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
69	21 March, 1475, 16 E. 4.	G. and cross.	XII. 18
70	14 February, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
71	Between 8 and 14 February, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
72	February, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
73	February or March, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
74	February or March, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
75	8 March, 1476, 17 E. 4.		
76	8 March, 1476, 17 E. 4.		
77	16 March, 1476, 17 E. 4.		
77	March, or April, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
78	28 March, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
79	14 April, 1477, 17 E. 4.	French arms, and I E S.	XII. 22
80	23 June, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
81	17 August, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
82	18 December, (query) 1477, 17 E. 4.	Cross keys.	XII. 19
83	13 May, 1478, 18 E. 4.		
84	26 May, 1478, 18 E. 4.		
85	23 or 25 August, 1478, 18 E. 4.		
86	29 October, 1479, 19 E. 4.	A flaggon, or chalice.	XII. 20
87	November, 1479, 19 E. 4.		

Auto- graphs. Pl.	Nº	Letters From and to whom.
II.	25	1 MARGARET Paston, to John Paston.
IV.	8	2 (Humphrey lord) Cromwell, to John Paston, esquire.
IV.	2	3 Elizabeth, sister of Edward IV. to John Paston.
IV.	9	4 John Paston, to Mrs. Anne
IV.	7	5 (William lord) Hastings, to John Paston, esquire.
VI.	31	6 Catalogue of the books of John Paston.
		7 Verses by a lady to a nobleman.

R I C H A R D III.

Auto- graphs. Pl.	Nº	Letters From and to whom.
VII.	4	1 (JOHN duke of) Norfolk, to John Paston.
VII.	3	2 (John Duke of) Suffolk, to Thomas Jeffreys.
VII.	1, 2	3 Richard III. to his subjects.
VII.	3	4 (John duke of) Suffolk, to John Paston, sheriff.
VII.	7	5 Margery Paston, to John Paston.
VII.	4	6 (John duke of) Norfolk, to John Paston.
VII.	5	7 Alise, lady Fitzhugh, to sir John Paston.
VII.	6	8 Margaret (countess of) Oxynford, to John Paston, sheriff.

Dates.		Paper-Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. No
1	Before 1466, 6 E. 4.		
2	10 February, E. 4.		
3	(Query,) E. 4.		
4	22 July, E. 4.		
5	26 April, 147—, E. 4.	Part of an animal.	XII. 21
6	5 November, E. 4.	Forepart of an unicorn.	XII. 23
7	H. VI. or E. 4.	A bull.	IX. 10

R I C H A R D III.

Dates.		Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. No
1	10 October, 1483, 1 R. 3.	G. and quaterfoil.	XIII. 2
2	1 May, 1484, 1 R. 3.	Hand and star.	XIII. 4
3	23 June, 1484, 2 R. 3.	P. and quaterfoil, and bar.	XIII. 3
4	20 October, 1484, 2 R. 3.	P. and quaterfoil.	XIII. 3
5	24 December, 1484, 2 R. 3.		
6	Between 8 and 15 August, 1485, 3 R. 3.		
7	24 February, 1485.	{ A star of eight points, sur- mounted by a coronet. }	XIII. 5
8	19 May, 1486.		

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS, or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Auto- graphs. Pl.	No	Letters.	Autographs.
I.	1	(14)	R. H.
	2	(15) (9 E. IV.)	Marguiet.
	3	3 (Monogram)	Mowbray Norff'.
	4	14, 21	R. York.
	5	5	H. Bukingham.
	6	9	Suffolk.
	7	19, 20.	R. Warrewyk.
	8	23	Oxenford.
	9	29	T. Cant.
	10	36	R. Salisbury.
	11	30	John, lord Lovell.
	12	33	Scales.
II.	13	48, 49.	R. H. lord Molyns.
	14	6	William Yelverton, justis.
	15	12, 28, 41.	J. Fastolf, knight.
	16	22, 50, c.	Elianore, duchesse of Norff'.
	17	2	Rob. Reppes.
	18	4	John Northwod.
	19	1, 35, c.	Agn. Paston.
	20	15, c.	M. Paston, (64, 65, 84 E. IV.)
	21	16, 47, (1 E. 4.)	Wyllyam Paston.
	22	52	Clement Paston.
	23	17	Boto-ner.
	24	34, 37, 46.	W. Botoner, called Wyrcester.
	25	8, 44, c.	M. P. (App. 1 E. IV.)
	26	10	W. L. Query, Wm. Lomner.
	27	25	W. B.
III.	28	7, 27.	James Grefham, (5, 39 E. IV.)
	29	11, 24.	John Crane.
	30	13	Payn J.
	31	18	Edmund Clere.
	32	26, 43.	H. Wyndefore, (8 E. IV.)
	33	{ 31, 32. } { 38, 45. }	J. B.
	34	39	J. Bokkyng.
	35	40	John Jernyngan.
	36	42	Denyes.
	37	51	Henry Fylungley.
	38	53	Xpofer Hauflon.
			Robt. Wenynghon.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper Marks. Pl. N ^o	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
VIII. 1	2	An animal with one horn.
2	{ 5, 33, 34, 35. }	Bull's head and star.
3	{ 37, 41, 44. }	Bull's or goat's head.
4	4	Cap and fleur de lys.
5	9, 10, 47.	YHS, surrounded with a radiated star }
6	13	of sixteen points.
7	11	Cross, &c.
8	14	A pillar.
9	15	A flower.
	20	Cross keys.
IX. 10	23, 25. App. 7.	Bull.
11	24	A pair of shears.
12	39	Bull's head and star.
13	42	{ Two pales within a lozenge shield, sur- }
14	49	mounted by a coronet.
15	50	A bunch of grapes.
16	53	A pyramid.
		A pair of scales.

EDWARD

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Auto- graphs. Pl. N ^o	Letters.	Autographs.
IV. 1	33	R. E.
2	App. 3.	Elizabeth.
3	28	Norff'.
4	31	G. Eborac.
5	29, 37, 38.	Oxynford.
6	41	O d
7	58. App. 5.	Haftyngs.
8	App. 2.	Cromwell.
9	{ 15, 20, 21, 27, 35, 40, 44, 45, 49, 52, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 67, 68, 70, 78, 79, 83, 85, 86. } App. 4.	John Paston, k.
10	{ 30, 42, 43, 50, 51, 53, } 54, 62, 69, 80.	J. P. k.
11	3, 17, 19.	John Paston, the yongest.
12	{ 23, 34, 36, 46, 48, } 66, 75, 87.	J. Paston, the yonger.
V. 13	22, 60.	Wyllm Paston, junr.
14	1, 2, 4, 16.	Thom's Playter.
15	6, 7.	John Berneye.
16	11	John Wykes.
17	12	Fryer Jan Mowth.
18	13, 14.	John Ruffe.
19	18. (Monogram.)	Henr Berry.
20	24	William Ebesham.
21	25	Jakys Hawte.
22	26	John Aubry, &c.
23	32	For Trowyth.
24	47	J. Arblafter.
25	76	T. Brews, knyth.
26	71, c.	Dame Elizabeth Brews.
VI. 27	72, 73, c.	M. B. M'gery Brews.
28	74	Tho's Kela.
29	77, * 77.	J. Pympe.
30	81	E. Bedyngfeld.
31	App. 6.	Arabic Figures.
32	Preface, p. xxxi.	Points, or Stops.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper Marks. Pl.	N ^o	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
X.	I	1, 8, 9, 24, 41, 46, 47, 55.	Bull's head and star.
	2	14, 54.	Vine branch, and bunch of grapes.
	3	38	Bull's head and star, with a circle.
	4	21	Bunch of grapes.
	5	20, 49.	A demi bull.
	6	23	A Catharine wheel.
	7	24	Wheels, &c.
	8	30	A goat's head.
	9	37, 48, 62.	Wheels, &c.
XI.	10	40	Bull's head and star.
	11	39	A pair of shears.
	12	42	Bull's head.
	13	50, 52, 57.	P. and quaterfoil.
	14	60	A unicorn.
	15	56	P. and quaterfoil.
	16	35	R.
	17	43	A plan of Gresham house.
XII.	18	69	G. and cross.
	19	82	Cross keys.
	20	86	A flaggon or chalice.
	21	App. 5.	Part of an animal.
	22	79	French arms and coronet, &c.
	23	App. 6.	Part of an unicorn.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS,
which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Auto- graphs. Pl. N ^o	Letters.	Autographs.
VII. 1	3	R. R.
2		Ricardus Rex.
3	2, 4.	Suffolk.
4	1, 6.	J. Norfolk.
5	7 c.	Alife, lady Fitzhugh.
6	8	Margaret Oxynford.
7	5 (82. E. IV.)	M. P..

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

AUTOGRAPHS.

Plate.	Royal.—Noble.		Commoners.	Total.	King's Reign.	Total.
I.	2.	10		12	Henry VI.	38
II.		2	13	15		
III.			11	11		
IV.	2.	6	4	12	Edward IV.	30, &c.
V.			14	14		
VI.			4 { Figures and Points.	4		
VII.	2.	4	2. Editor, &c.	8	Richard III.	8, &c.
	6.	22	48, &c.	76		76, &c.

FACSIMILES.

Plate } No. 1. A Fac Simile from Letter XXXVI. Vol. I. p. 148.
XV. } No. 2. A Fac Simile of the whole of Letter III. Vol. II. p. 292.

RICHARD

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper Marks. Pl. No	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
XIII. 1	3	P. quaterfoil, and bar.
2	1	G. and quaterfoil.
3	4	P. and quaterfoil.
4	2	Hand and star.
5	7	Star of 8 points, surmounted by a coronet.
6	Preface, p. xx.	A star of 8 points, within a double circle.

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

PAPER-MARKS, and SEALS.

Plate.	Paper-Marks.	Seals.	King's Reign.	Total.
VIII.	9		} Henry VI.	16
IX.	7			
X.	9		} Edward IV.	23
XI.	8. One a plan.			
XII.	6.		Richard III.	6, &c.
XIII.	6. Editor, &c.			
XIV.		28		28
	45, &c.	28		73, &c.

F A C S I M I L E S.

Plate } No. 3. A Fac Simile of the back of Letter III. Vol. II. p. 292.
XVI. } No. 4. A Fac Simile from Letter V. Vol. II. p. 298.

H E N R Y VI.

Pl. XIV.		Letter.
N ^o 1	William Yelverton. A cinquefoil.—The motto illegible.—The external circle represents a braid of twine, the four rays show the direction of the strings which fastened the letter.	6
2	James Gresham. A grafshopper.	7, 27
3	John Crane. The seal is blank, having a braid of twine round it.— The Rays as N ^o 1.	11
4	William Paston. A fleur de lys.	16
5	Edmund Clere. A rose.	18
6	Richard Neville, earl of Warwick. A bear supporting a ragged staff. Motto, <i>S. Ric. Com. de War.</i> The seal has a braid of twine round it.	19, 20
7	Henry Wyndesore. A bear chained, I believe.—Motto illegible.	26
8	John, lord Lovell. The seal is worn blank, but it has a braid of twine round it.	30
9	William Botoner. The letter W. surmounted by a coronet.—There is a small flower on each side of the W.	34
10	Richard Plantagenet, duke of York. The arms of England, viz. 1st and 3d, three fleurs de lys; 2d and 4th, three lions passant guardant; over all a label of three points, each charged with as many torteaux.	21
11	J. Bokking. An animal.—Motto illegible.	31, 38
12	Henry Fylungley. A flower	42
13	Hugh Fenne. A spreading tree having on one side the letter <i>h</i> , and on the other the letter <i>f</i> .	28 Note 2
14	Robert Hungerford, lord Molins. On a helmet, a griffin or wyvern, with wings displayed, having a flower on each side of the helmet.	48
15	Clement Paston. An escallop shell.	52

EDWARD

N ^o		Letter.
16	Thomas Playters. A crescent, surmounted by a fleur de lys, the motto illegible.	I
17	Thomas Playters. A tree, on which sits a bird, pecking at the branches.	2, 6
18	John Berney. In an oval, a bear passant, surrounded by a braid of twine.	6, 7
19	Henry Wyndesfor. An animal.—Motto illegible.	8
20	John Wykes. A pair of wings conjoined.	11
21	John Ruffe. A cross story.	13
22	John Paston, junior. A fleur de lys, with two small flowers pendant, having an annulet on the dexter side.	15, 23 34, 36 87.
23	Sir John Paston, knight. A fleur de lys in the centre, surrounded by nine other fleurs de lys, each within a circle.	21, 27 30, 43 44, 52 53, 57 79, 80.
24	John de Vere, earl of Oxynford. A dragon, or some other fierce animal. The top and bottom strokes represent the thread which fastened the letter.	29, 37
25	Margery Brews. A flower or fruit.	73
26	Elizabeth, duchess of Suffolk, sister of Edward IV. A rose, on an octangular seal.	App. 3.
R I C H A R D III.		
27	Margaret, countess of Oxynford. A bust, having the branch of a flower before it.	8
28	John Fenn. The seal of the editor. Argent on a fess azure three escalloped-shells of the 1st, within a bordure engrailed of the 2d.	28 Vol. I. Note 2.

E. D. W. A. R. D. 17. 1863

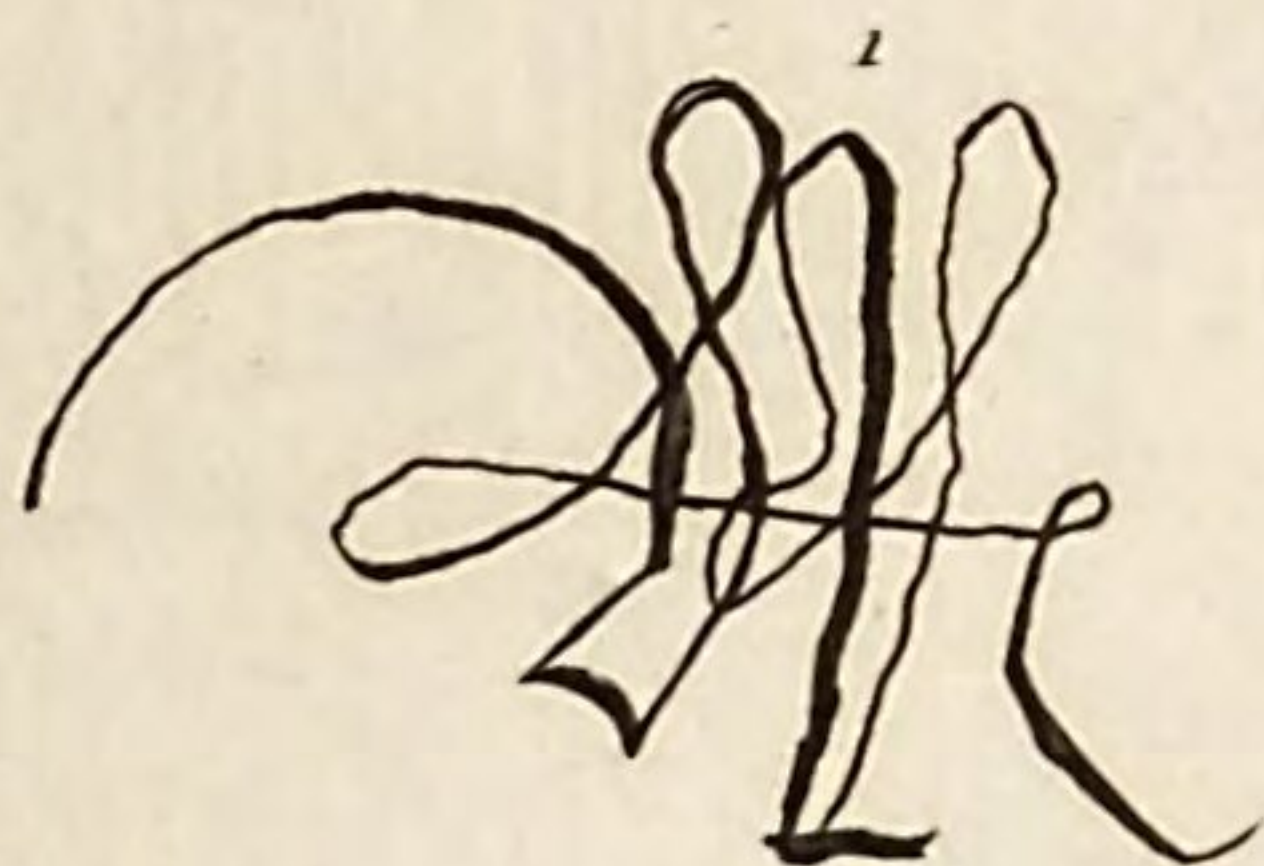
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E. D. W. A. R. D. 17. 1863

17. 1863

Autographs.

Richard III. 1483—1485.

¹
²
Richard III³
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Suffolk⁵
Lady Fitz Hugh⁶
Margaret Openford⁷
m. p.

These Autographs were all copied from the Originals,
in July 1785 by the Editor,

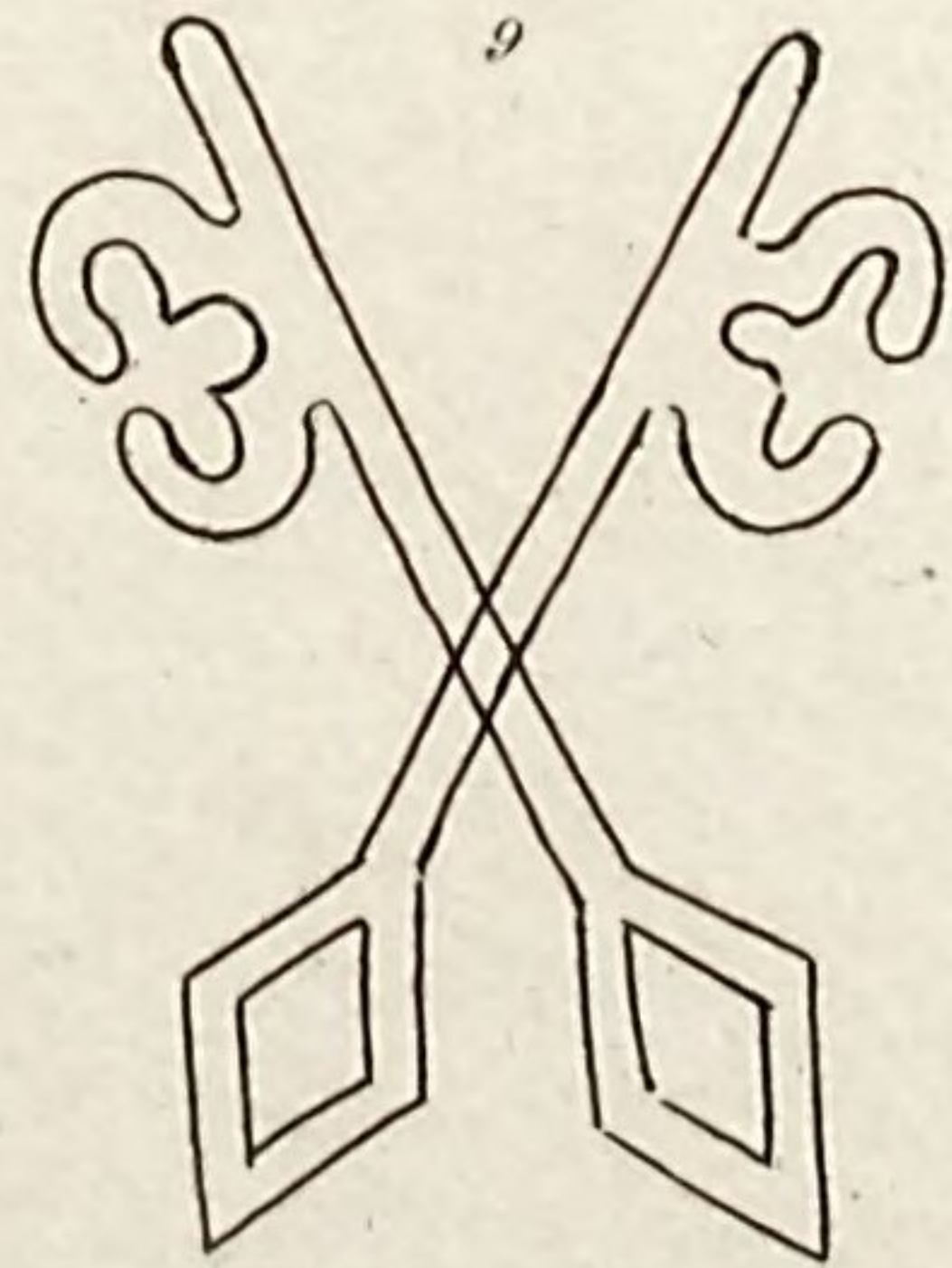
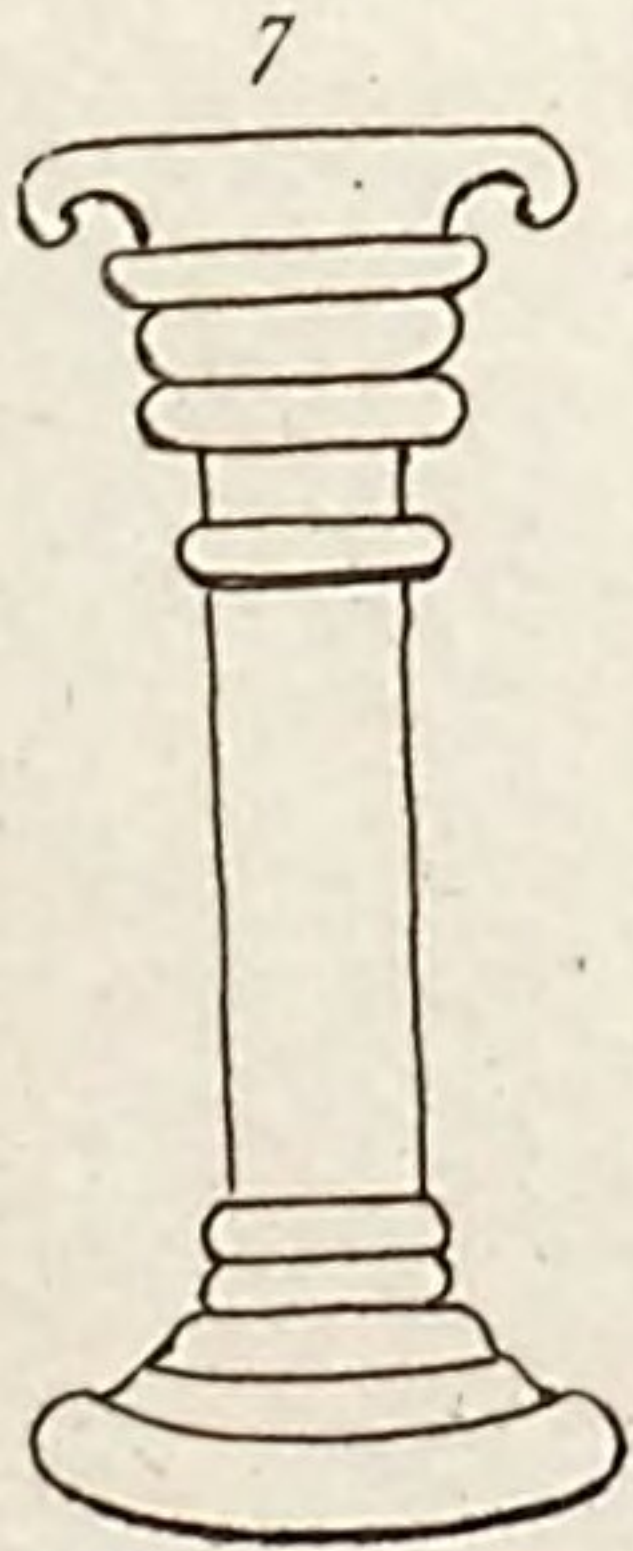
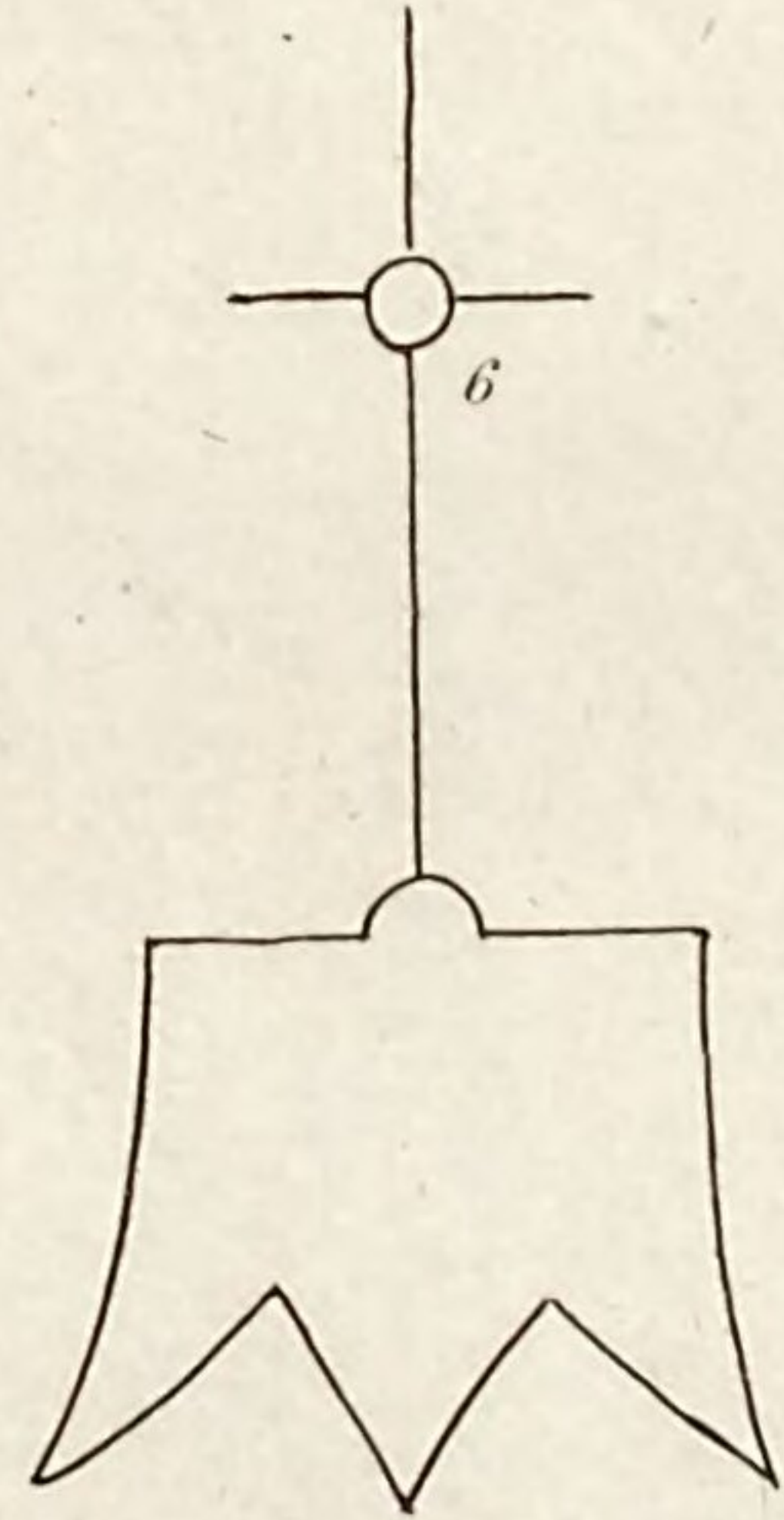
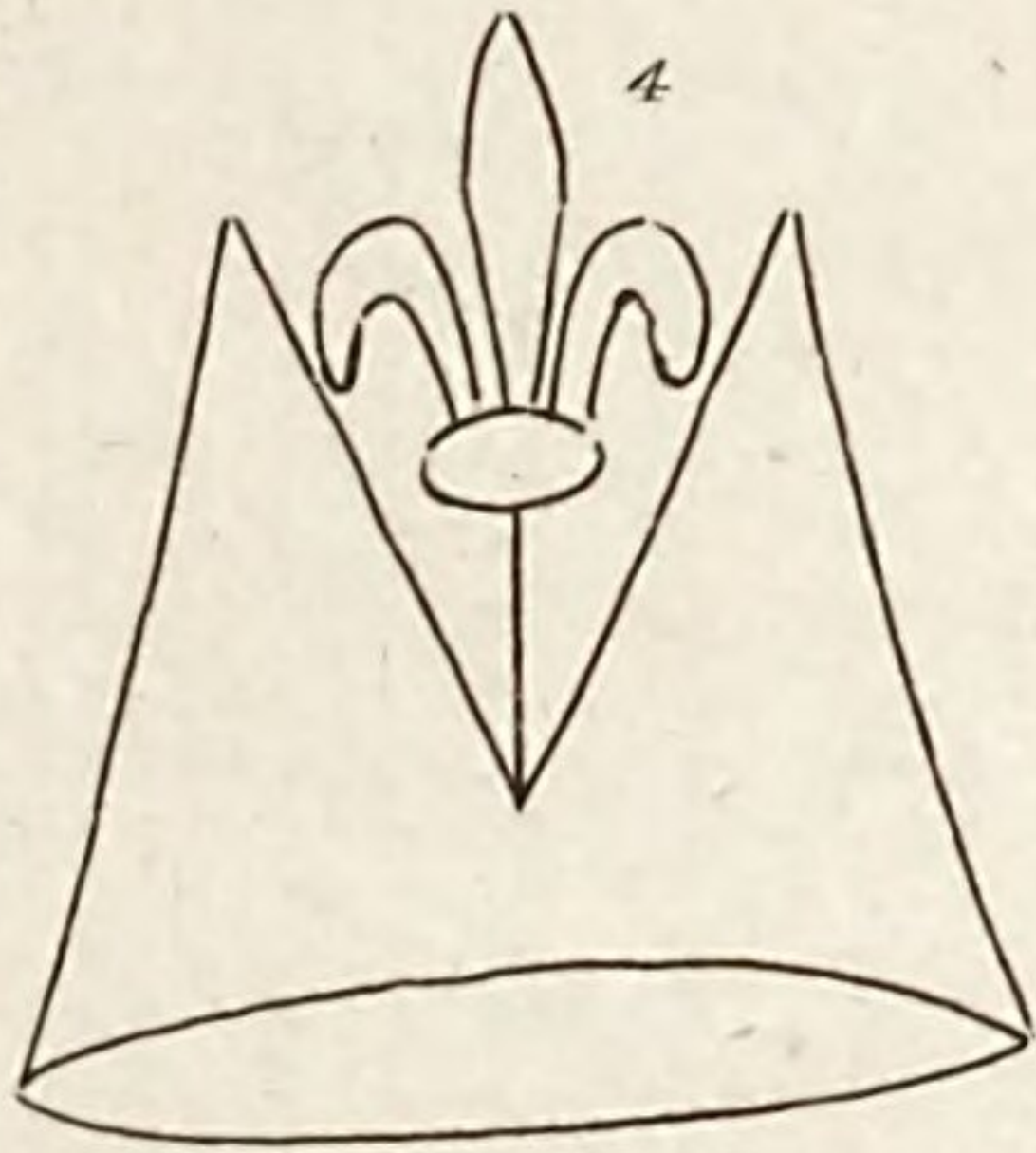
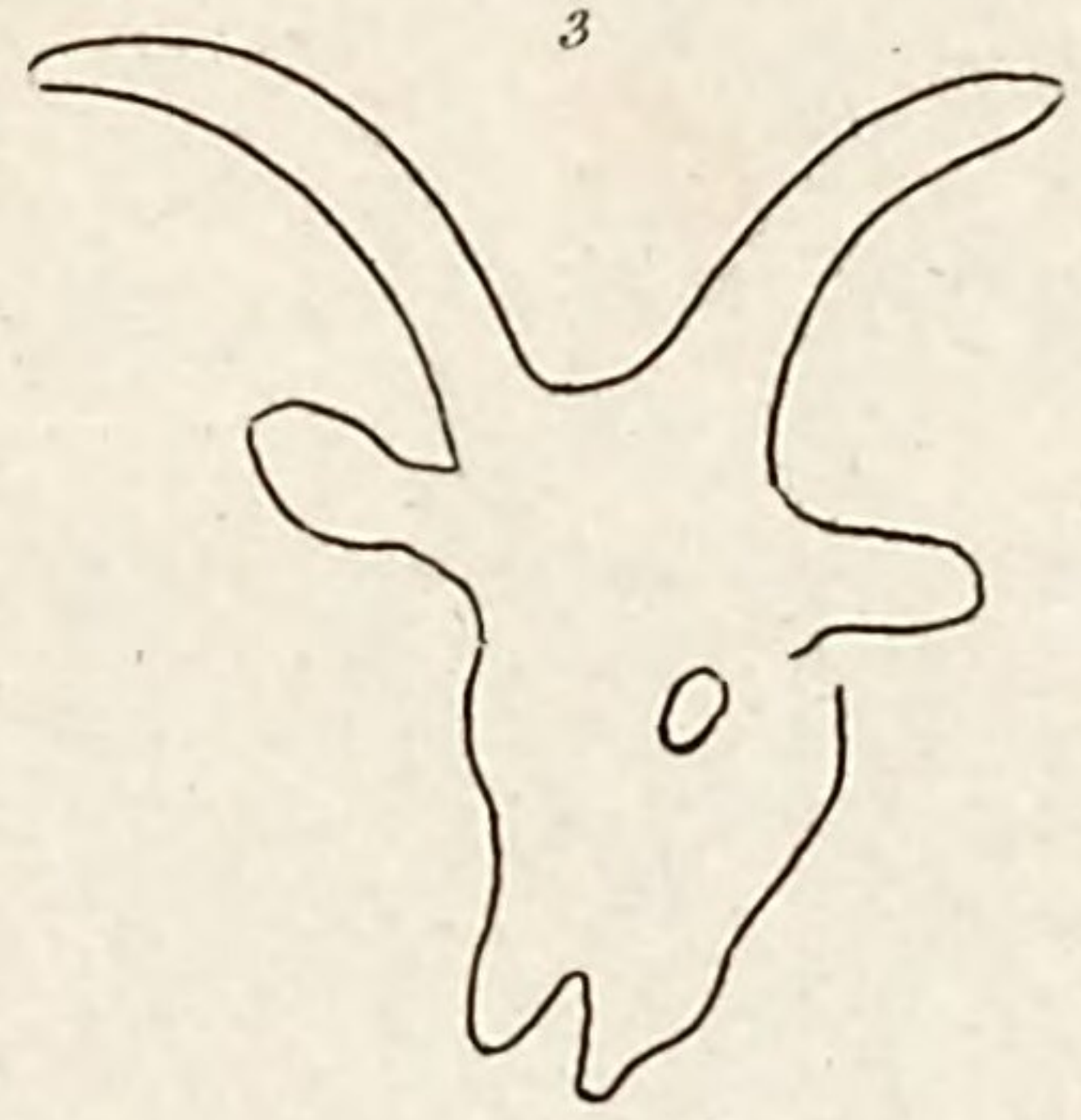
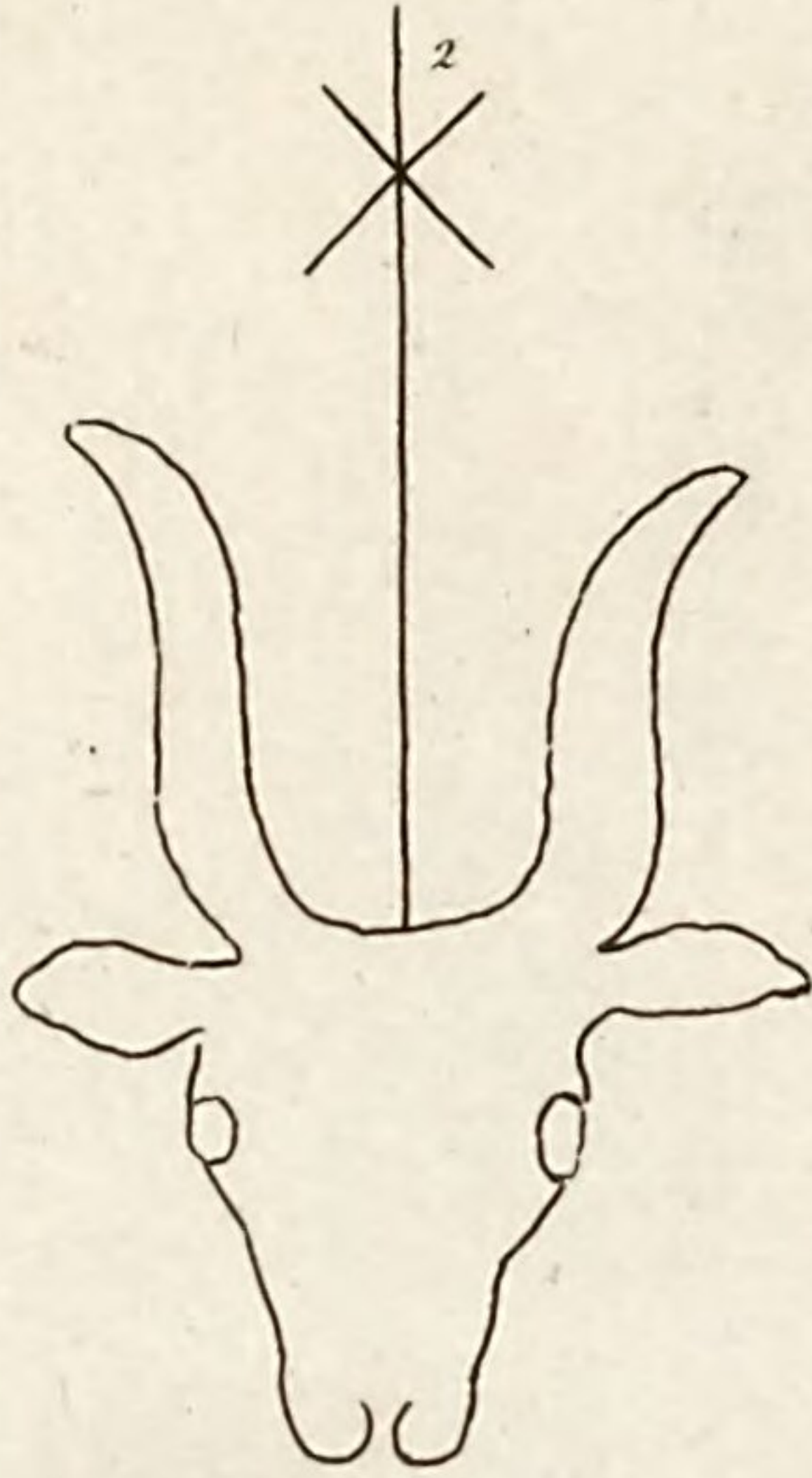
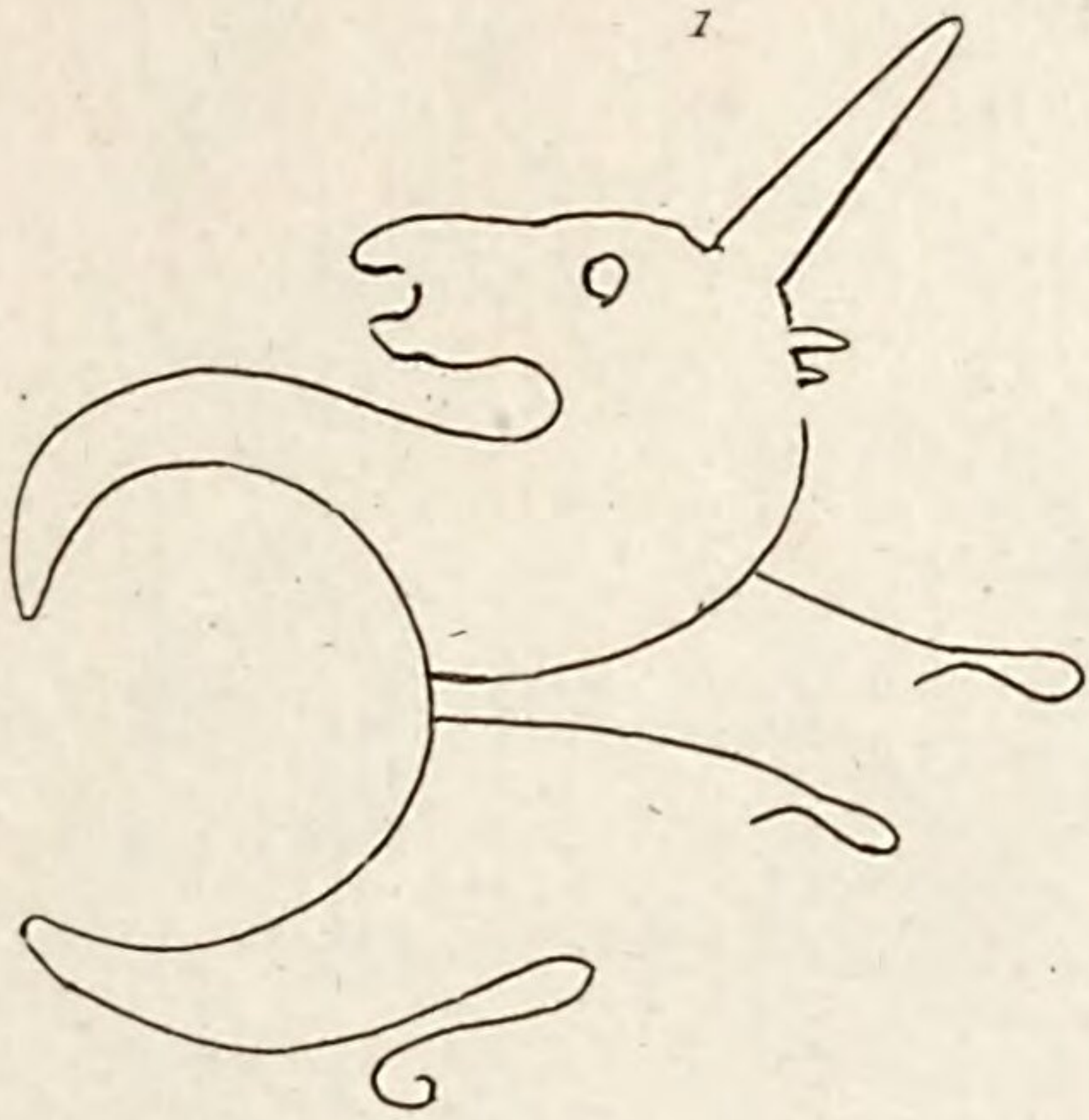
J. P. Fenno

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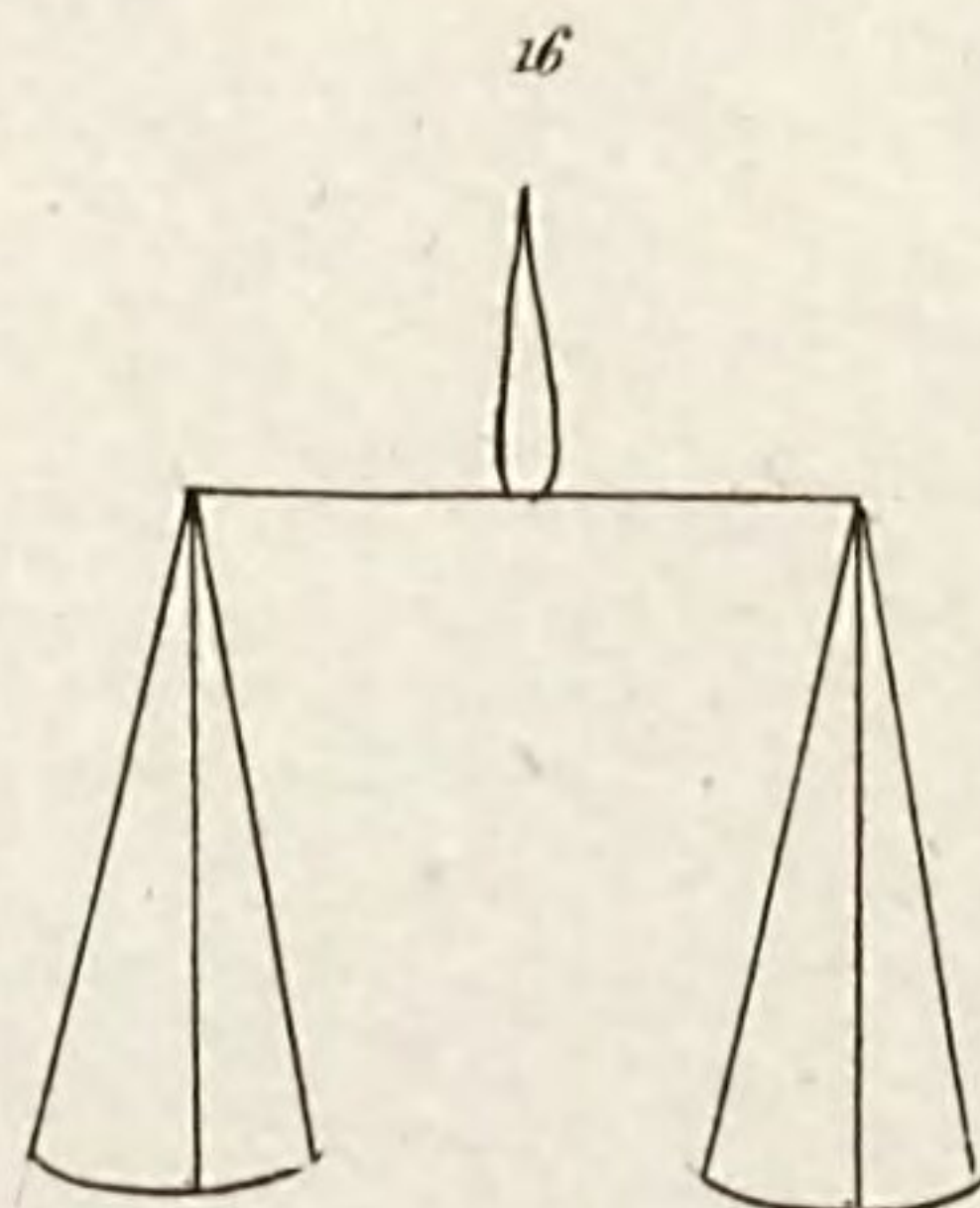
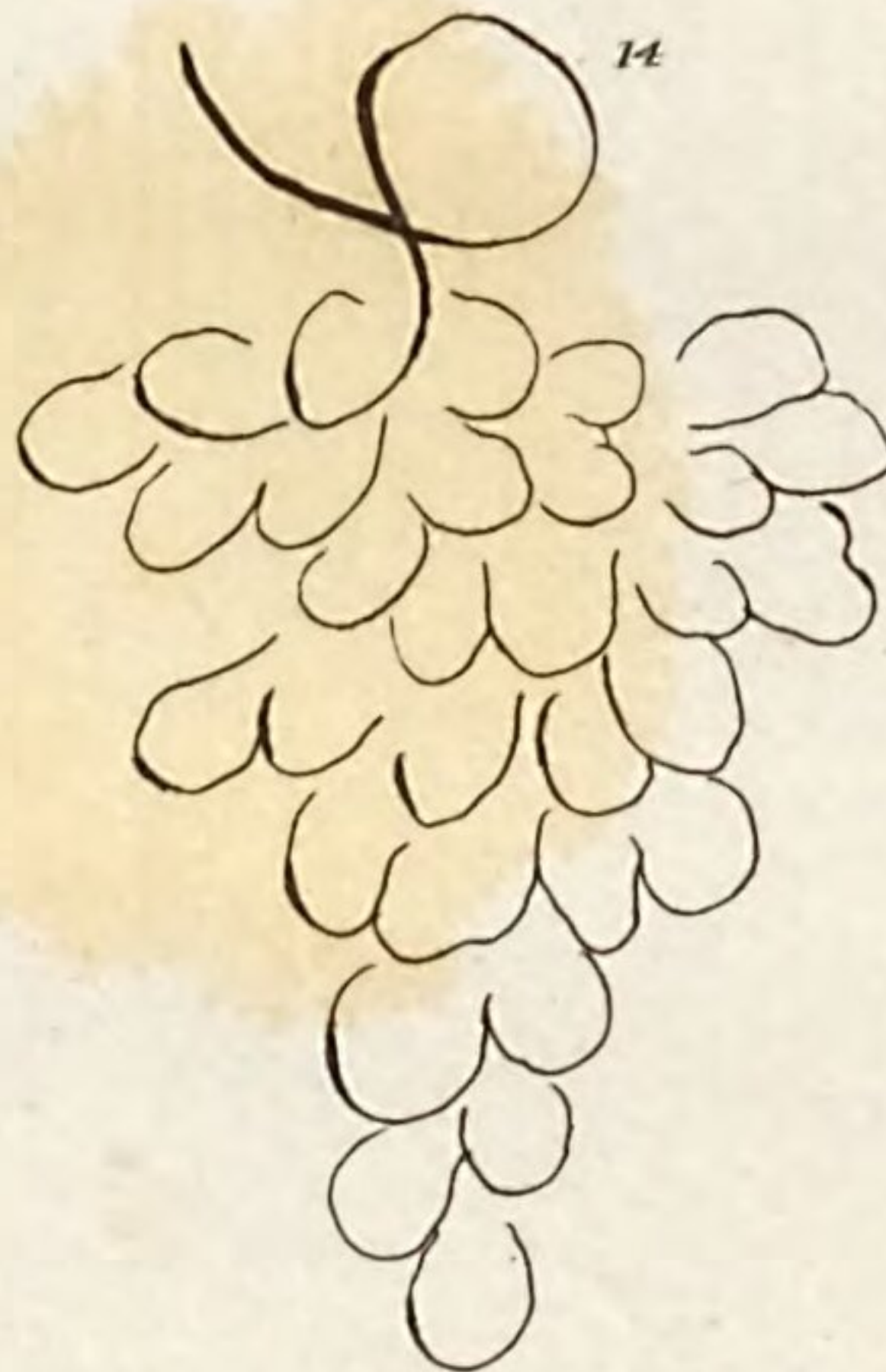
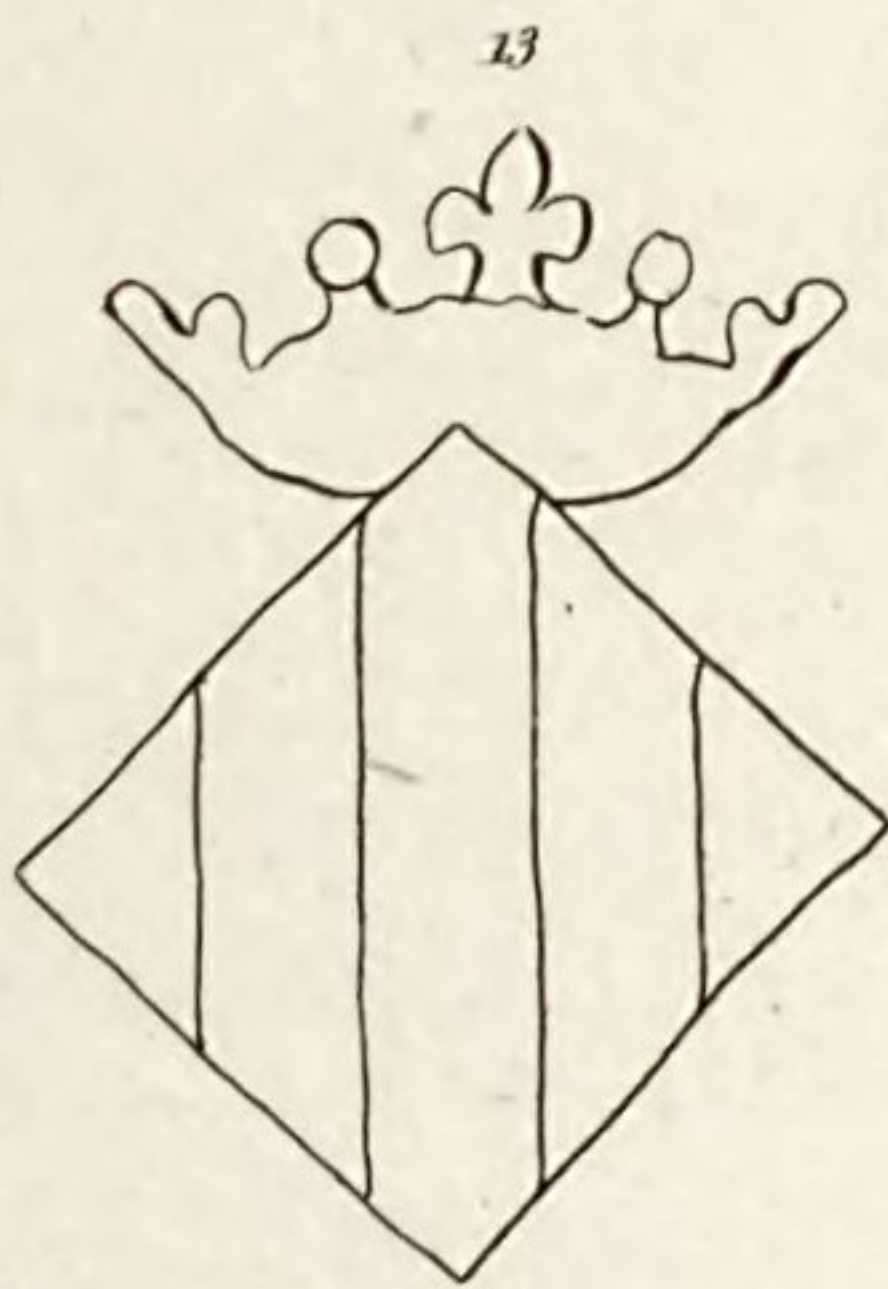
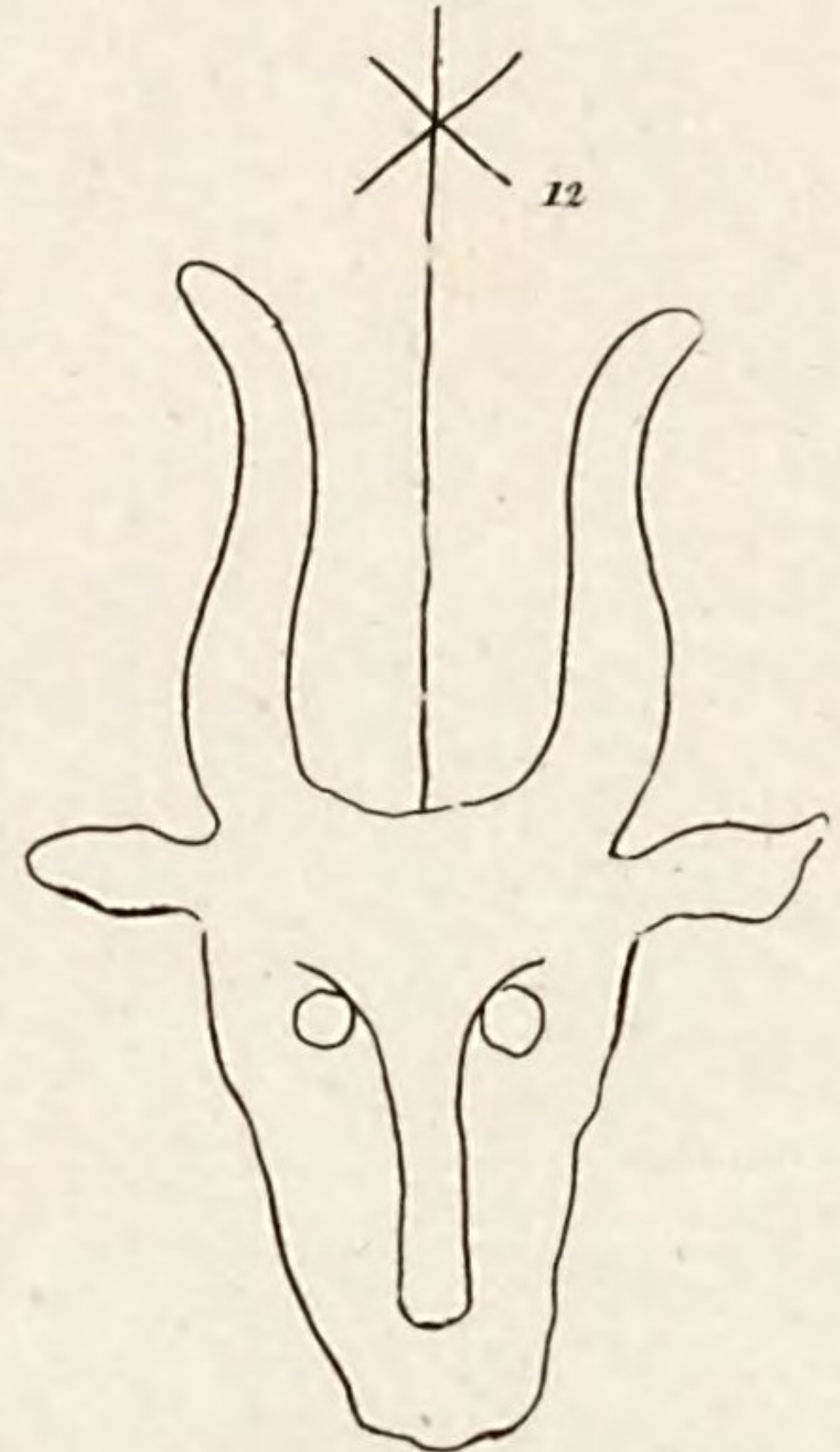
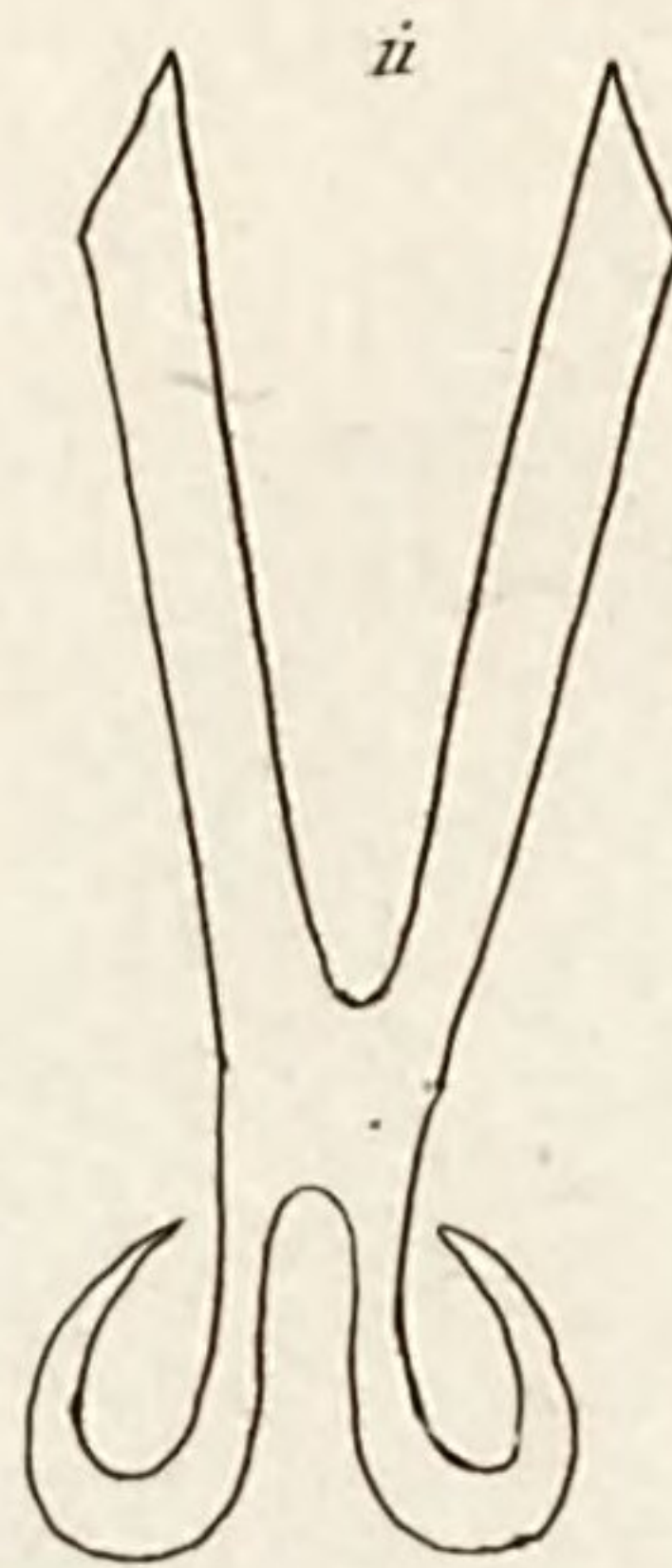
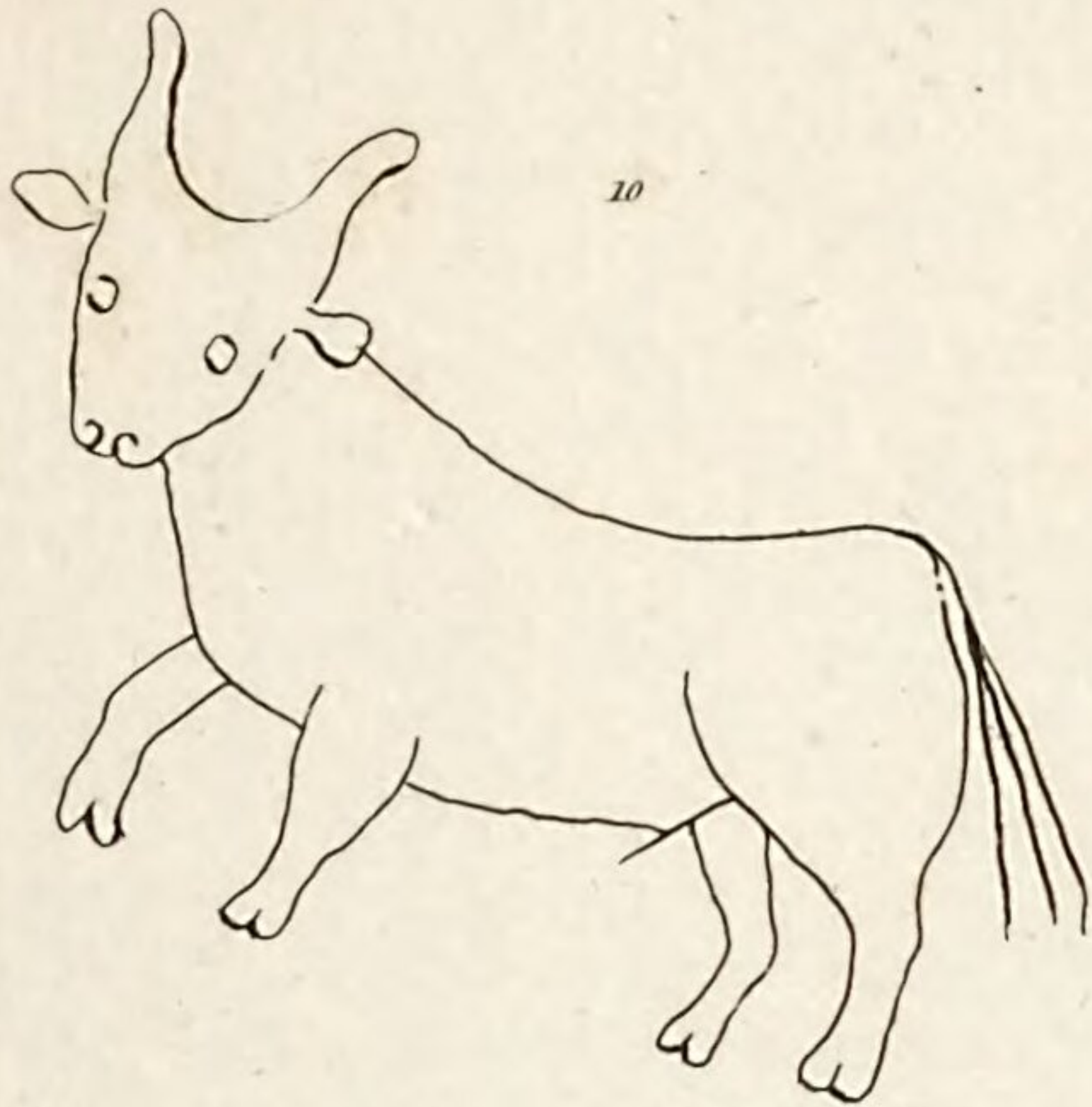
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Henry VI. 1422 — 1460.



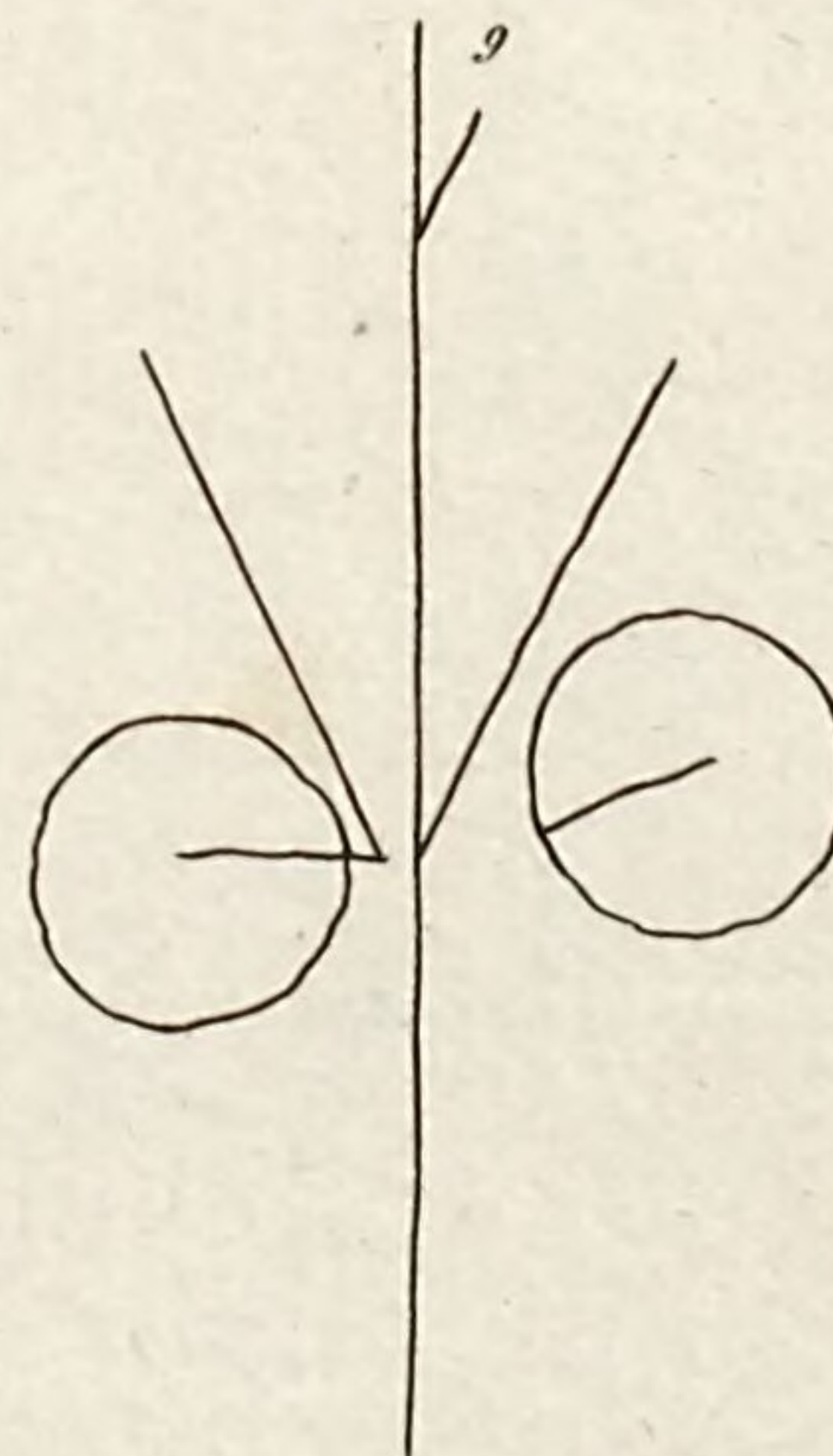
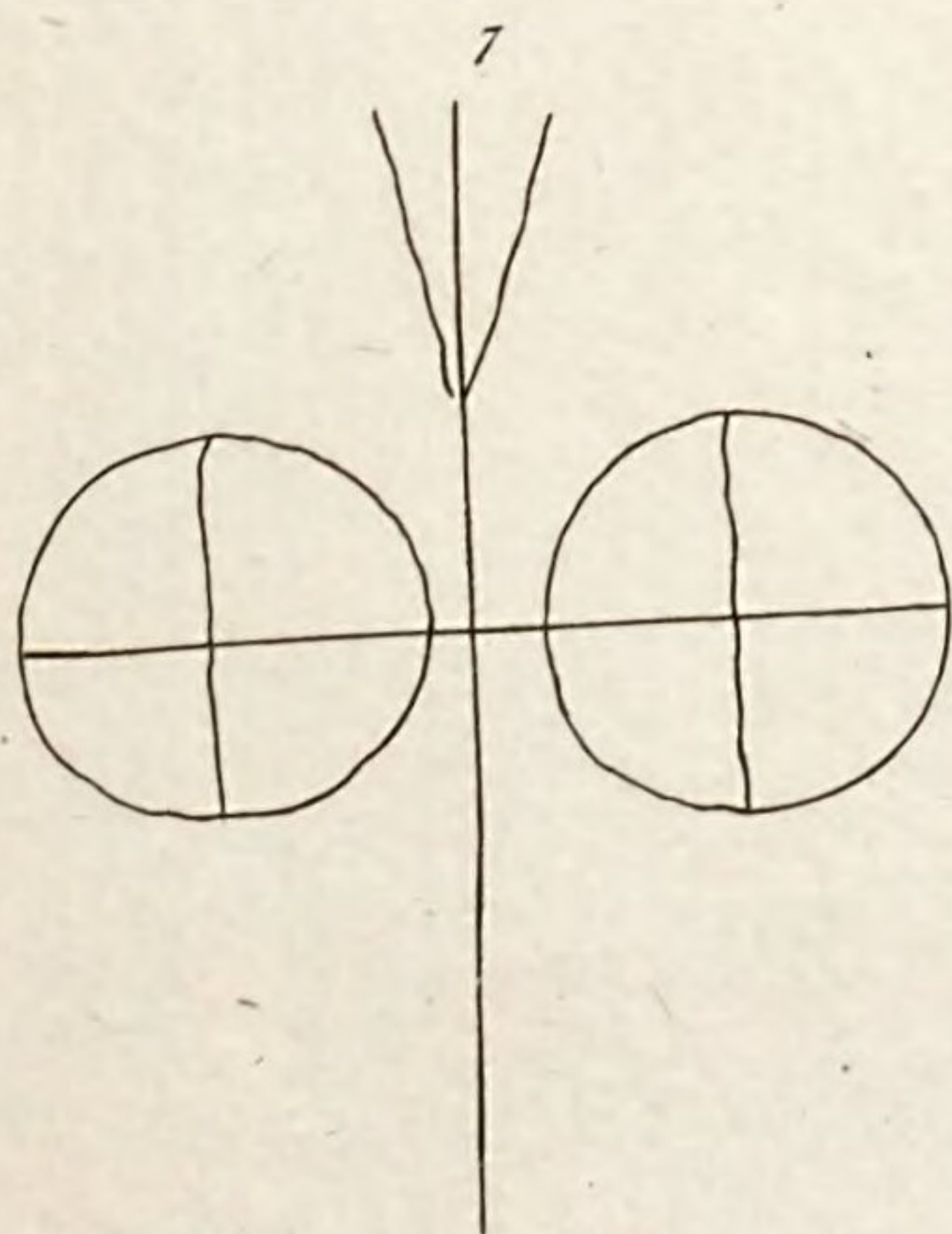
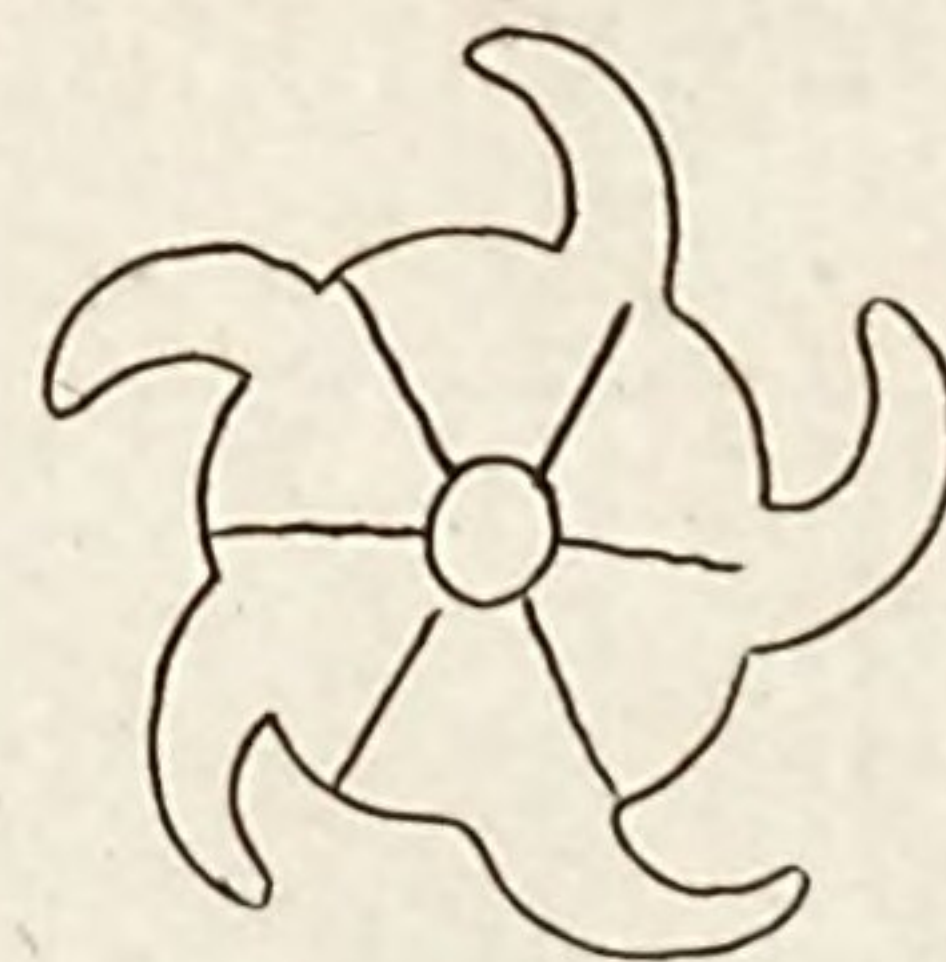
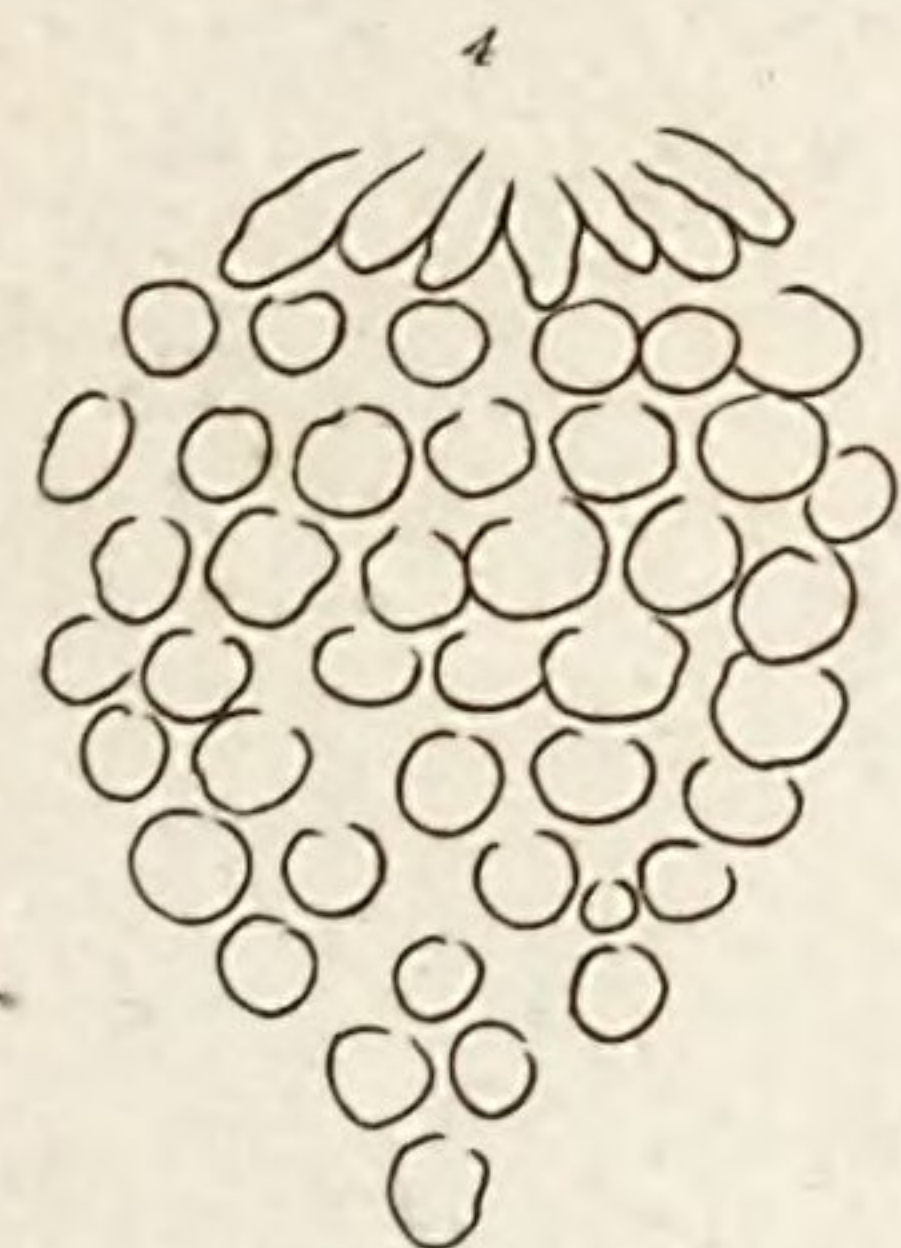
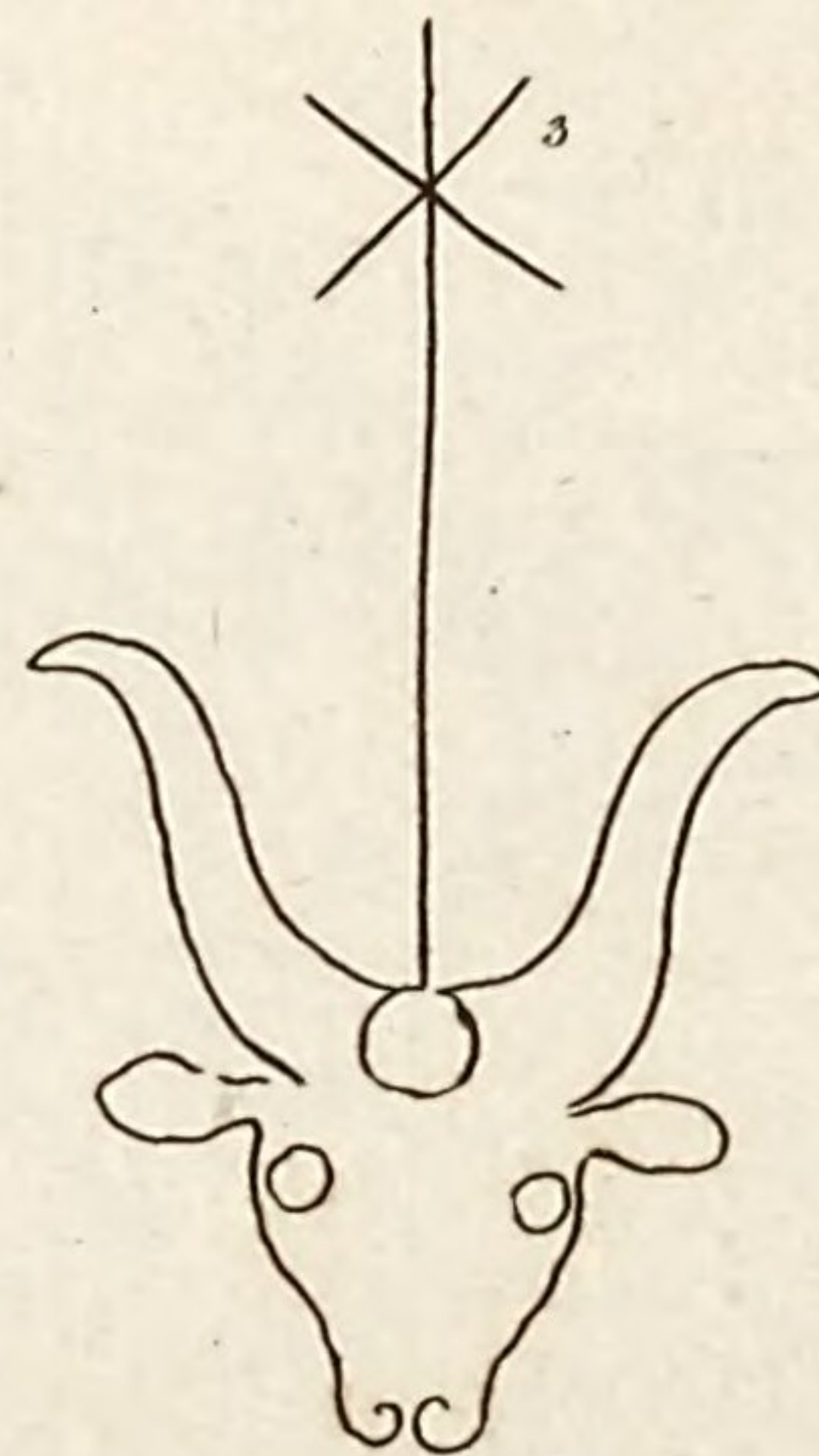
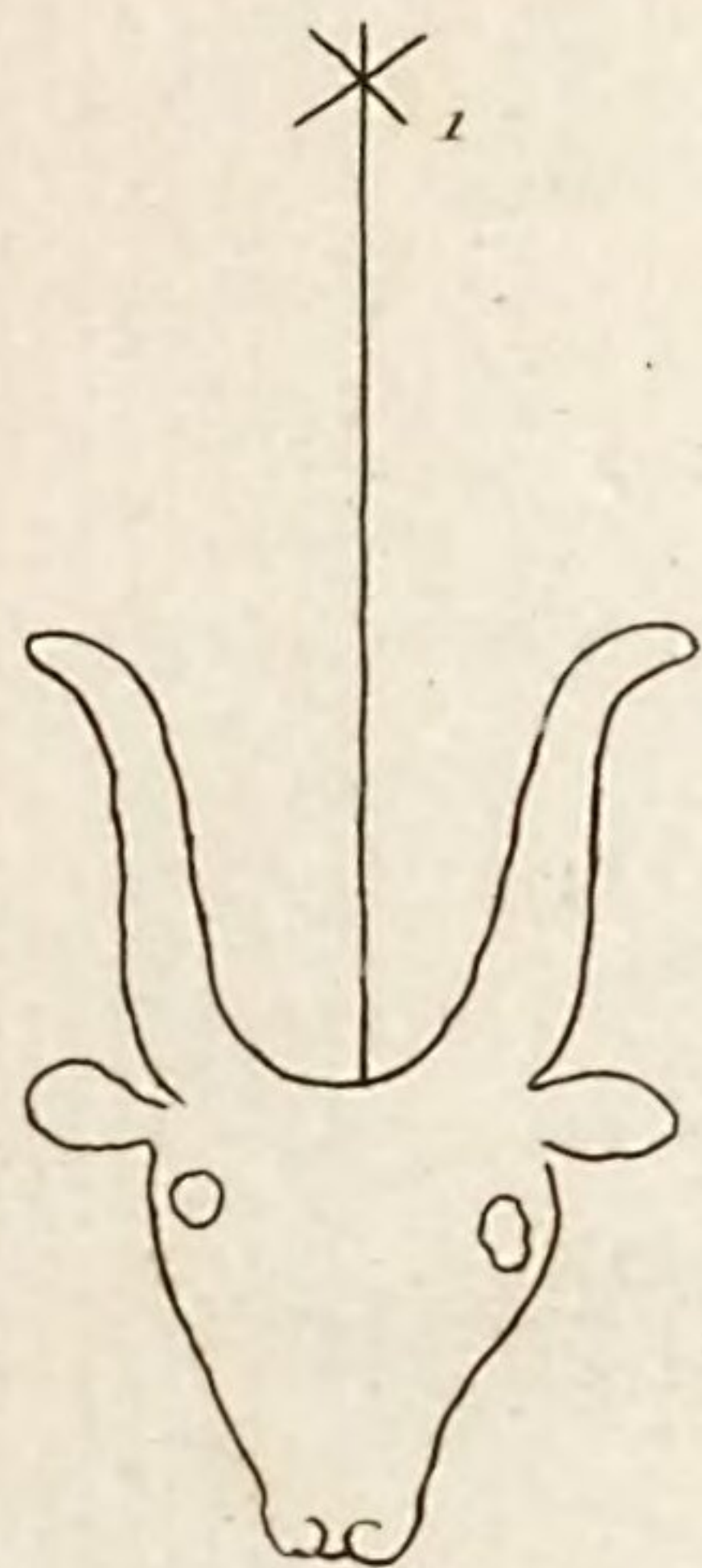
Paper Marks.

Henry VI. 1422 — 1460.



Paper Marks.

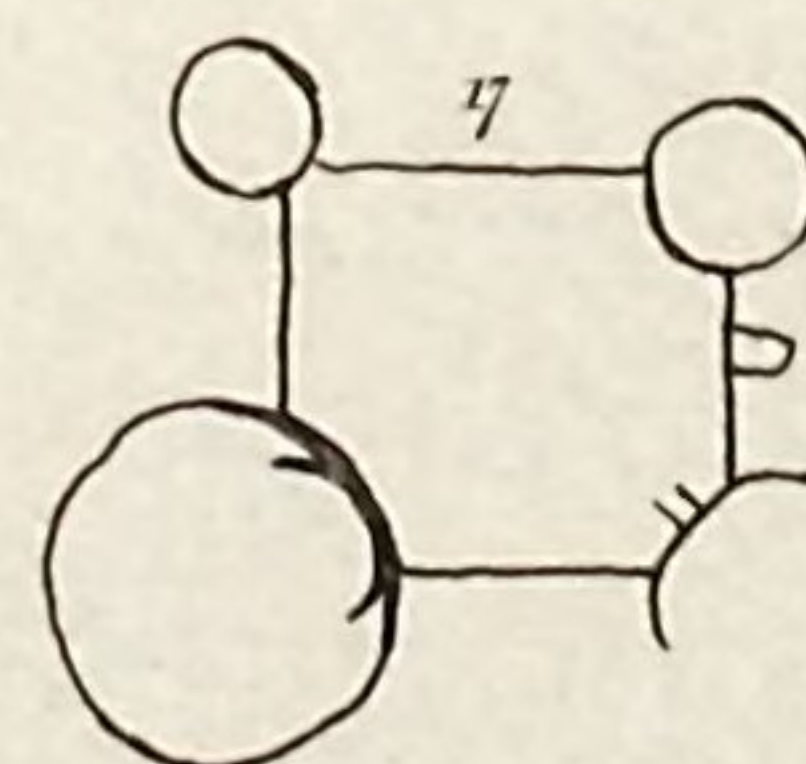
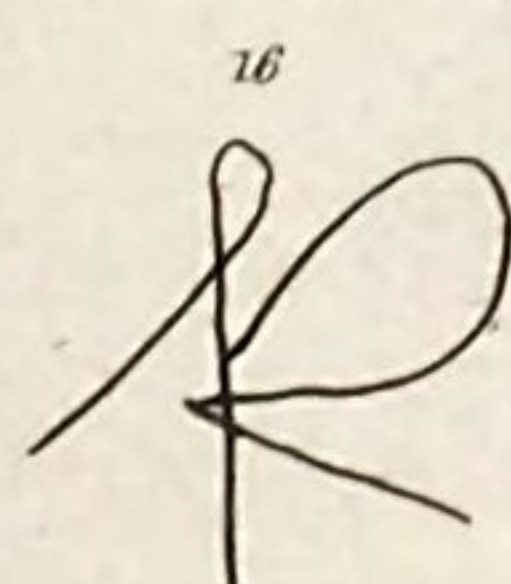
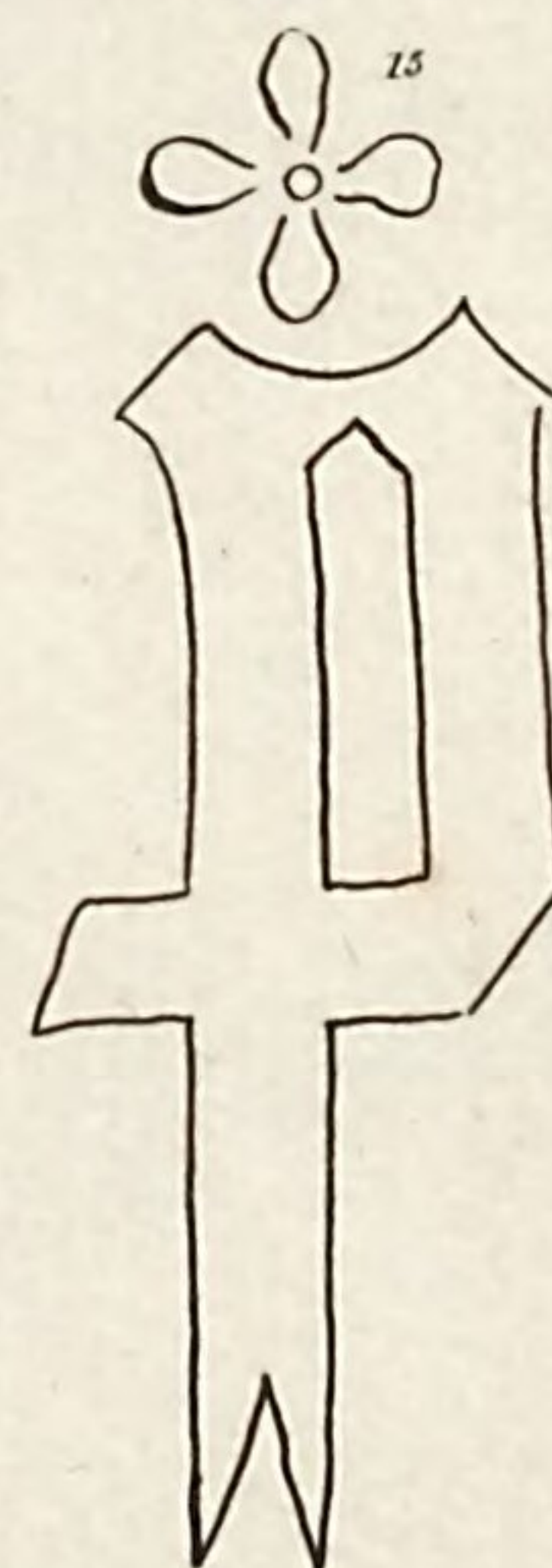
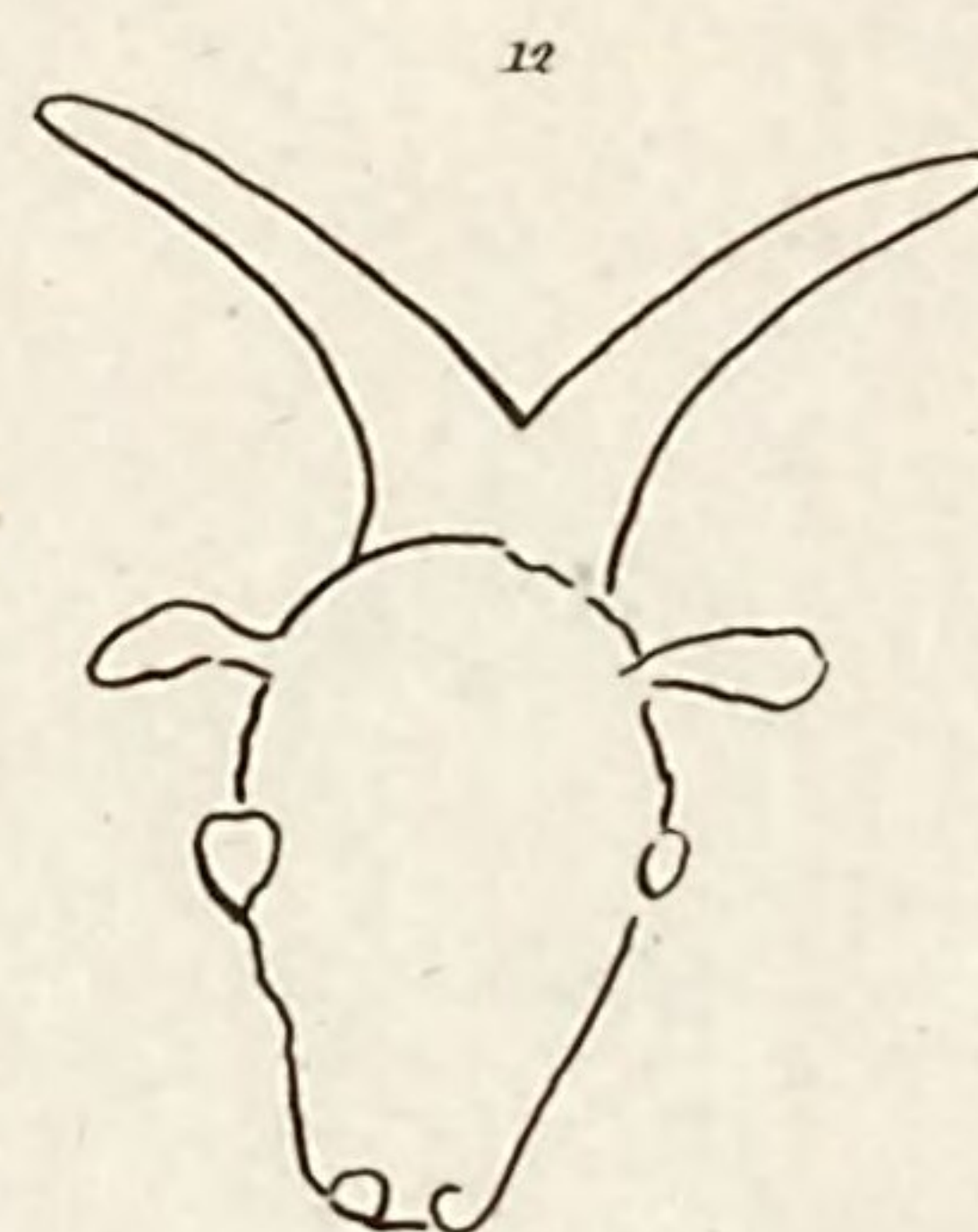
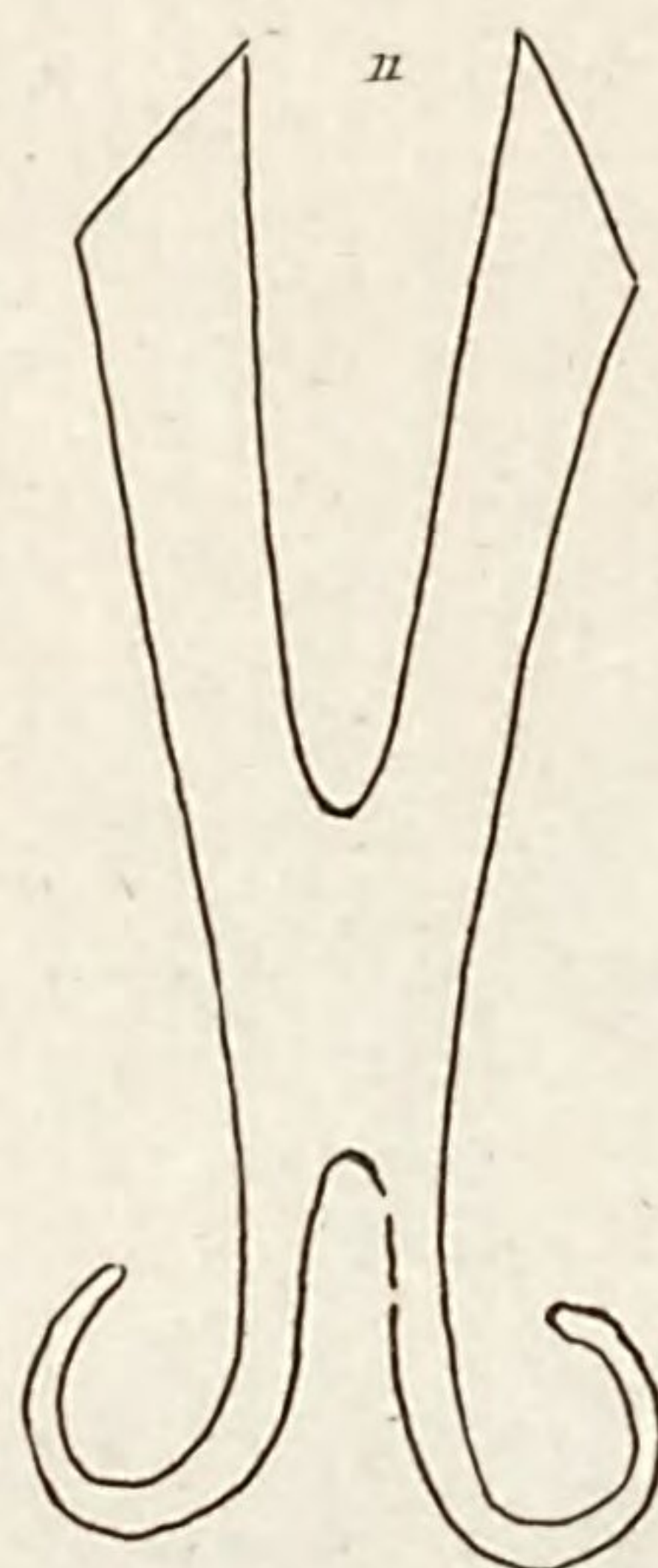
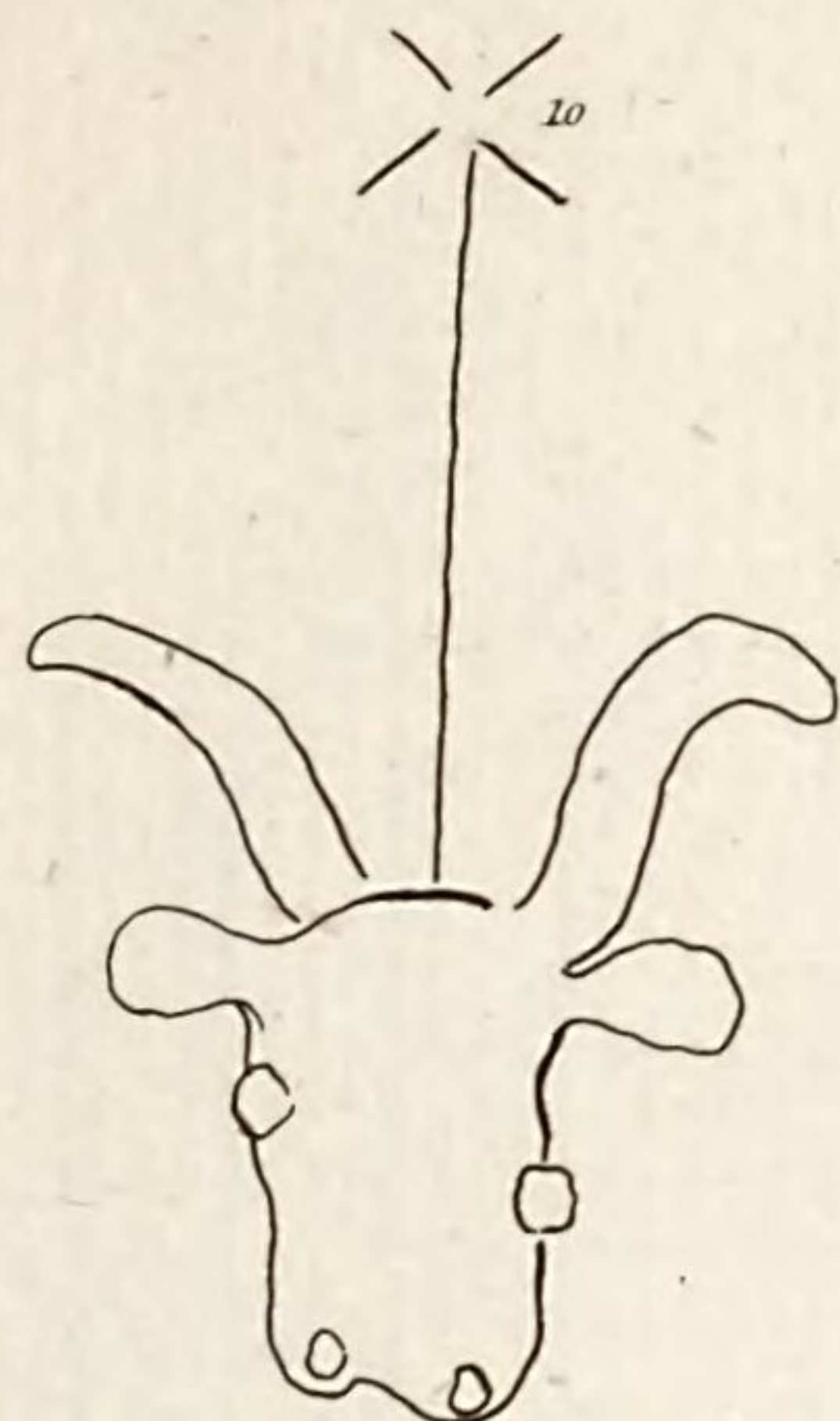
Edward IV. 1460 — 1483.



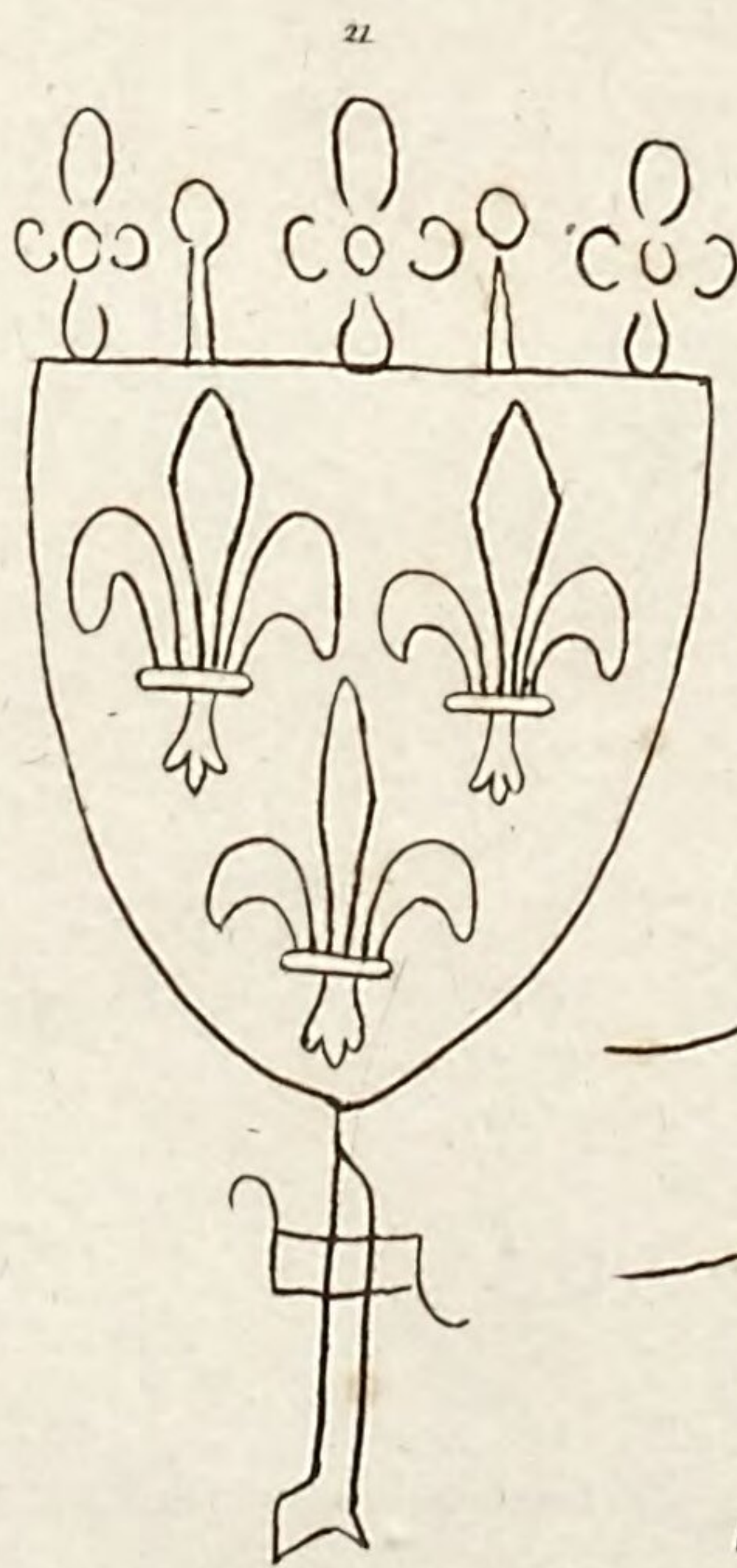
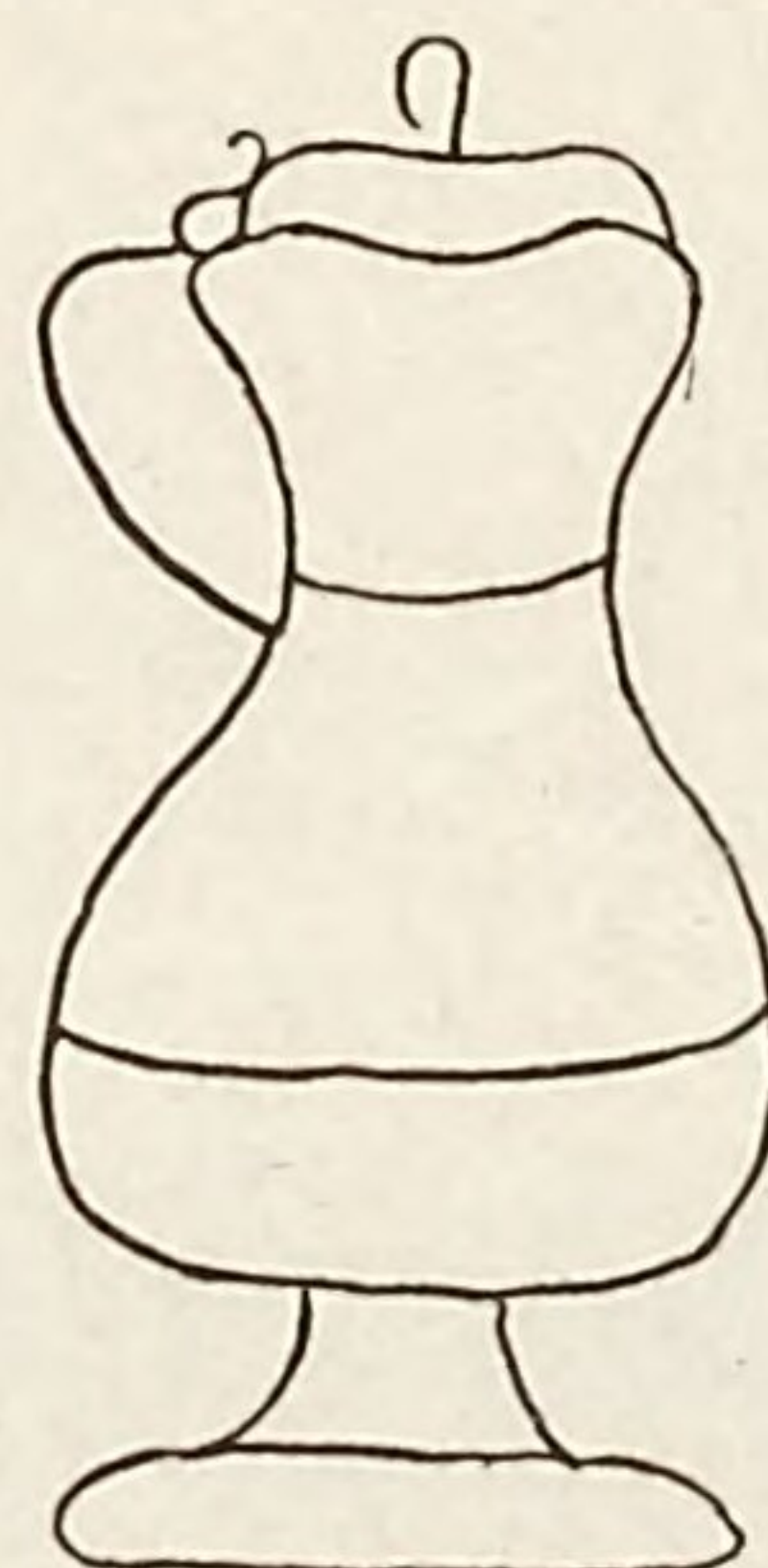
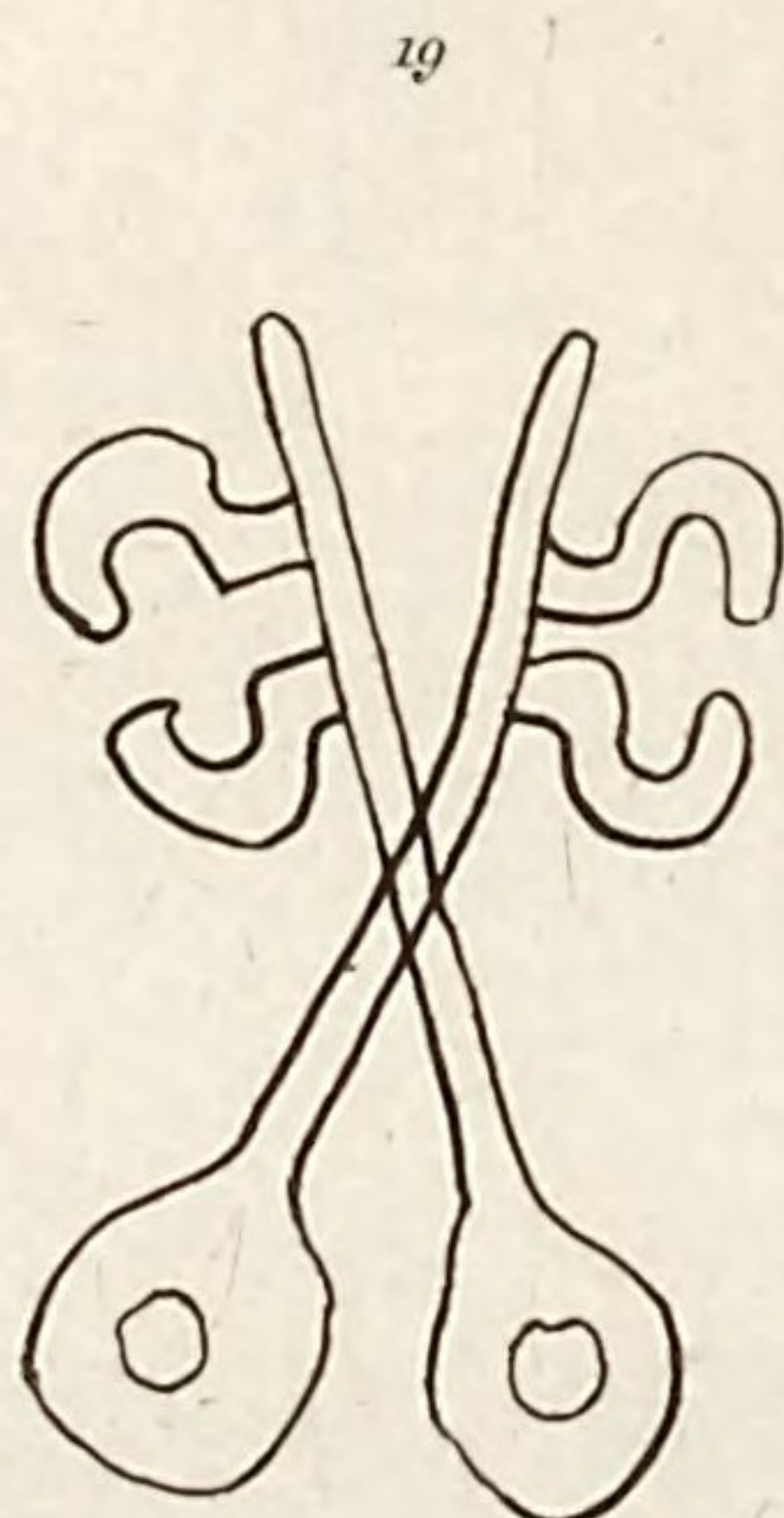
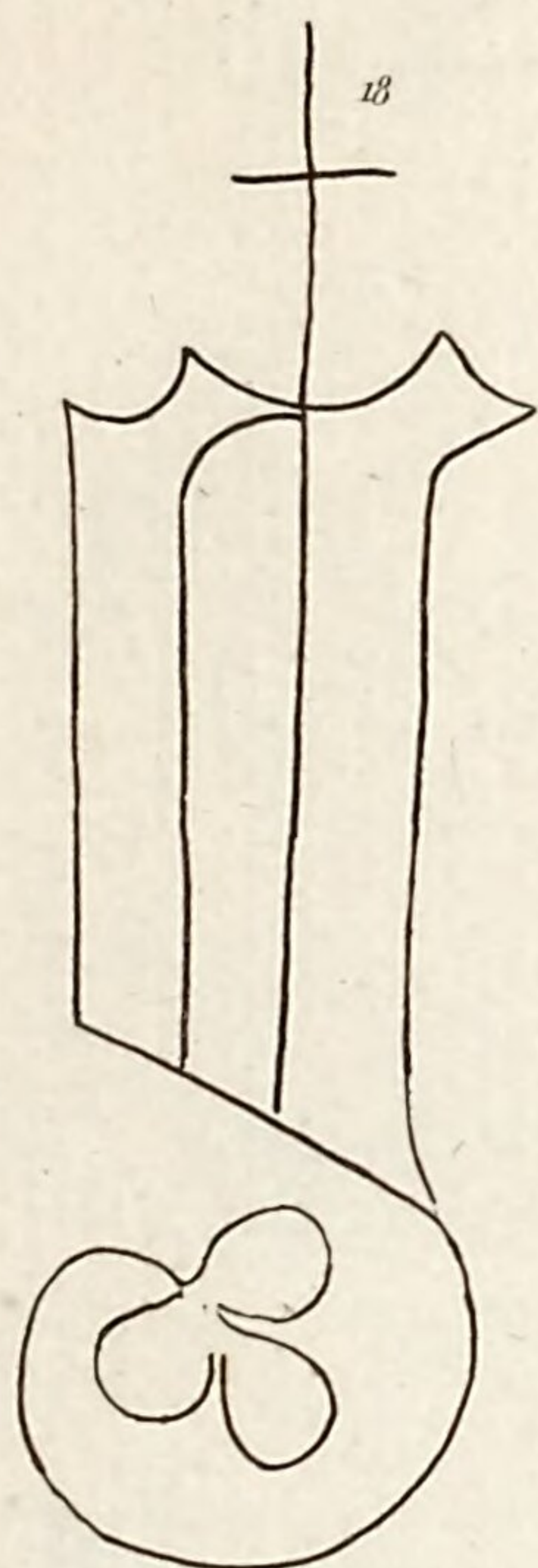
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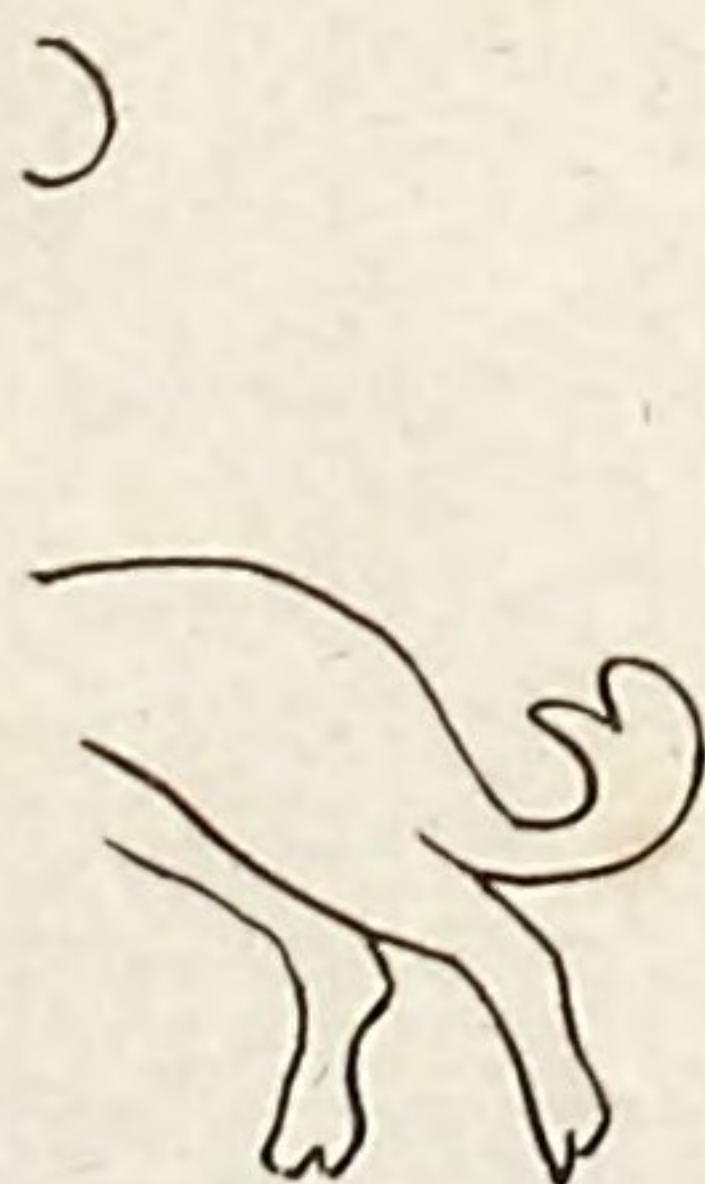
Paper Marks.
Edward IV. 1460—1483.



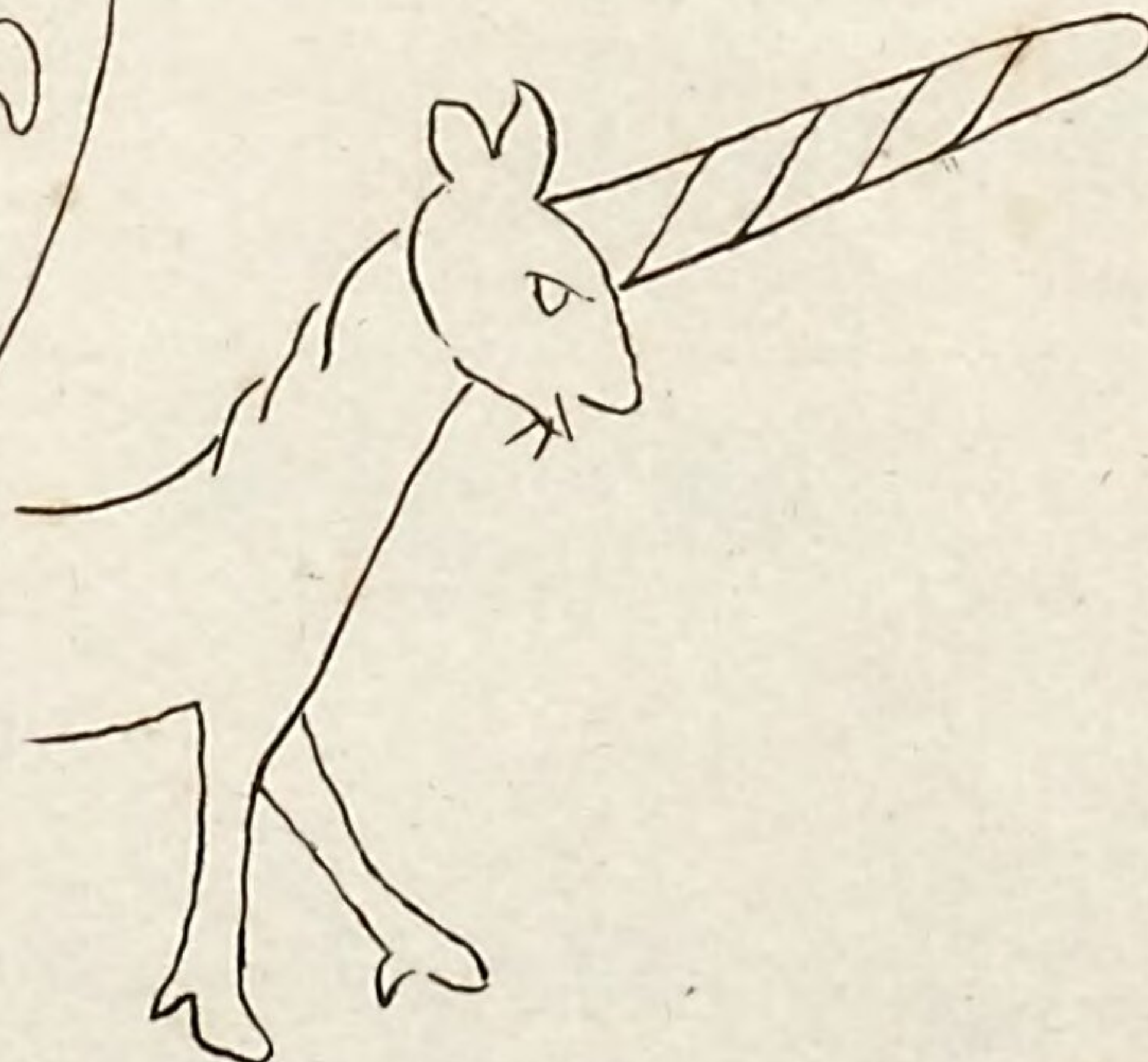
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Edward IV.....1460—1483.

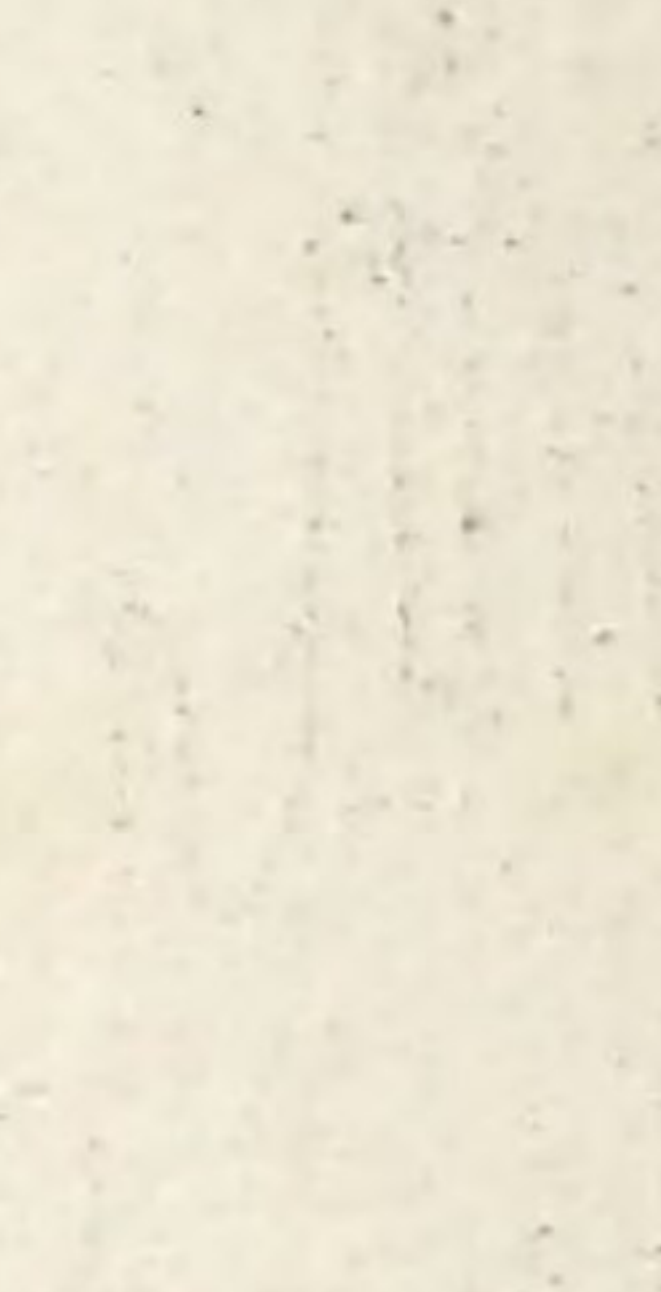
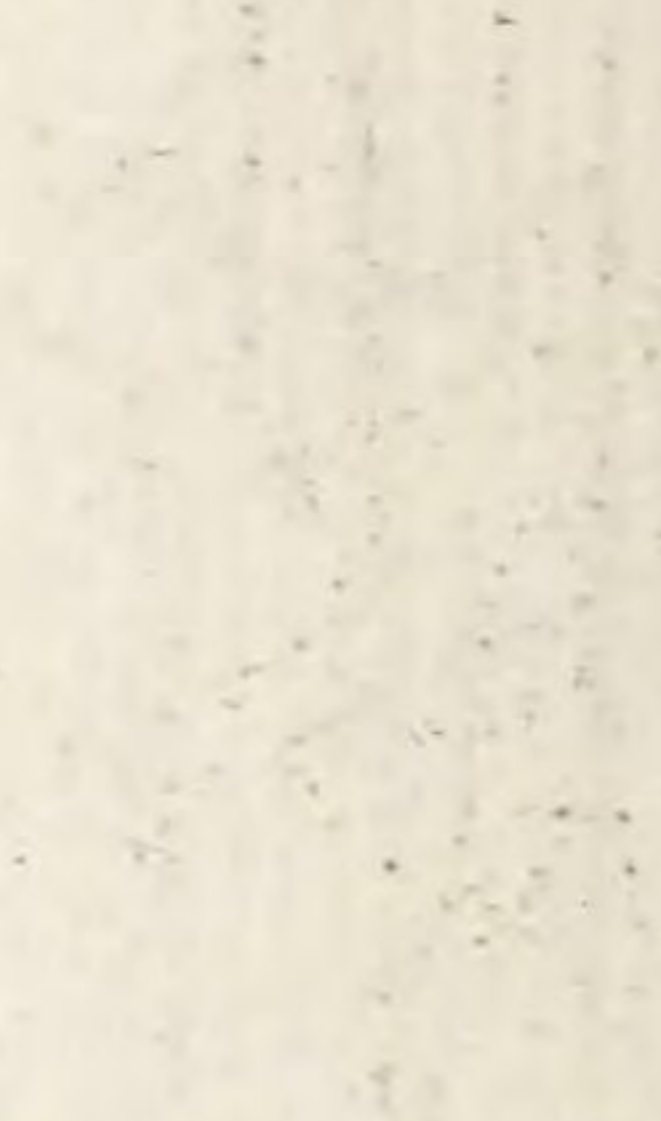


22



23





Autographs

Henry VI.—1422.....1460.

¹
F B²
azururitu³
W L now ff⁴
K York⁵
Lynkyngham⁶
Suffolk⁷
H Caillouby R⁸
Oxenford⁹
L J. Cant¹⁰
Halsbury¹¹
John lord Long¹²
Scalee

Autographs
Henry VI.....1422—1460.

¹³
R. H. 1022
L. molyne

¹⁴
William
de lincoln mpyd

¹⁵
G. H. 1022

¹⁶
Eleanor the Duchesse of North

¹⁷
Robt. Roper

¹⁸
John North

¹⁹
d. w.
paston

²⁰
d. paston

²¹
Wytham paston

²²
clement paston

²³
Hote R. mpyd

²⁴
W. Botney called Wyceff

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as p. //

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J. R. 1022

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Handwritten text on the left side, possibly a date or location.

Handwritten text on the right side, possibly a name or signature.

Handwritten text in the middle left section.

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Handwritten text in the lower middle right section.

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Handwritten text in the bottom right section.

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Large handwritten text block in the bottom right corner.

Autographs
Henry VI. 1422 — 1460.

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Jandro
Gressham

²⁹
John Grand

³⁰
paw 9

³¹
Edmund Sters.

³²
W. h. Wyndesore

³³
J. Bethune

³⁴
John Jernynghay

³⁵
Deyso

³⁶
Geryd Schyngher

³⁷
Xpofle hampton

³⁸
Robt Wempulston

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Handwritten text in the middle left section, appearing to be a list or series of entries.

Handwritten text in the middle right section, continuing the list or series of entries.

Handwritten text in the lower middle left section, possibly a continuation of the list.

Handwritten text in the lower middle right section, continuing the list.

Handwritten text in the bottom left section, possibly a concluding note or signature.

Handwritten text in the bottom right section, possibly a concluding note or signature.

Autographs
Edward IV.....1460—1483.

¹
HA

²
Elizabeth

³
Mar

⁴
G. eborac

⁵
Oxford

⁶
J. S.

⁷
Hastings

⁸
Gombel

⁹
John Paston Esq

¹⁰
J. P. R.

¹¹
John Paston the
younger

¹²
John Paston the younger

1871
April 1st

Dear Sir

I have the honor

to acknowledge

the receipt of your letter

of the 27th inst.

and in reply to inform you

that the same has been forwarded

to the proper authorities

for their consideration

I am, Sir, very respectfully

Yours obedient servant

Wm. H. Smith

Secretary

to the Board of Directors

of the Company

Autographs.

Edward IV.....1460—1483.

¹³
Wyllm 70 asoy.
jun.¹⁴
Thom glaytor¹⁵
John Beynere. in
db¹⁶
John wykeo.¹⁷
hys gan moeth¹⁸
John Kypso¹⁹
John Beynere²⁰
william & bryam²¹
Jakro hantw²²
John duby co²³
for 1200xch²⁴
Dr blaster.²⁵
Rt Wyndor & bnyth²⁶
Dame Elizabeth Wyndor

1840

1841

1842

1843

1844

Autographs
Edward IV.....1460—1483.

²⁷
Eggar Bp^{tho}

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Eggar Bp^{tho}

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Eggar Bp^{tho}

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Eggar Bp^{tho}

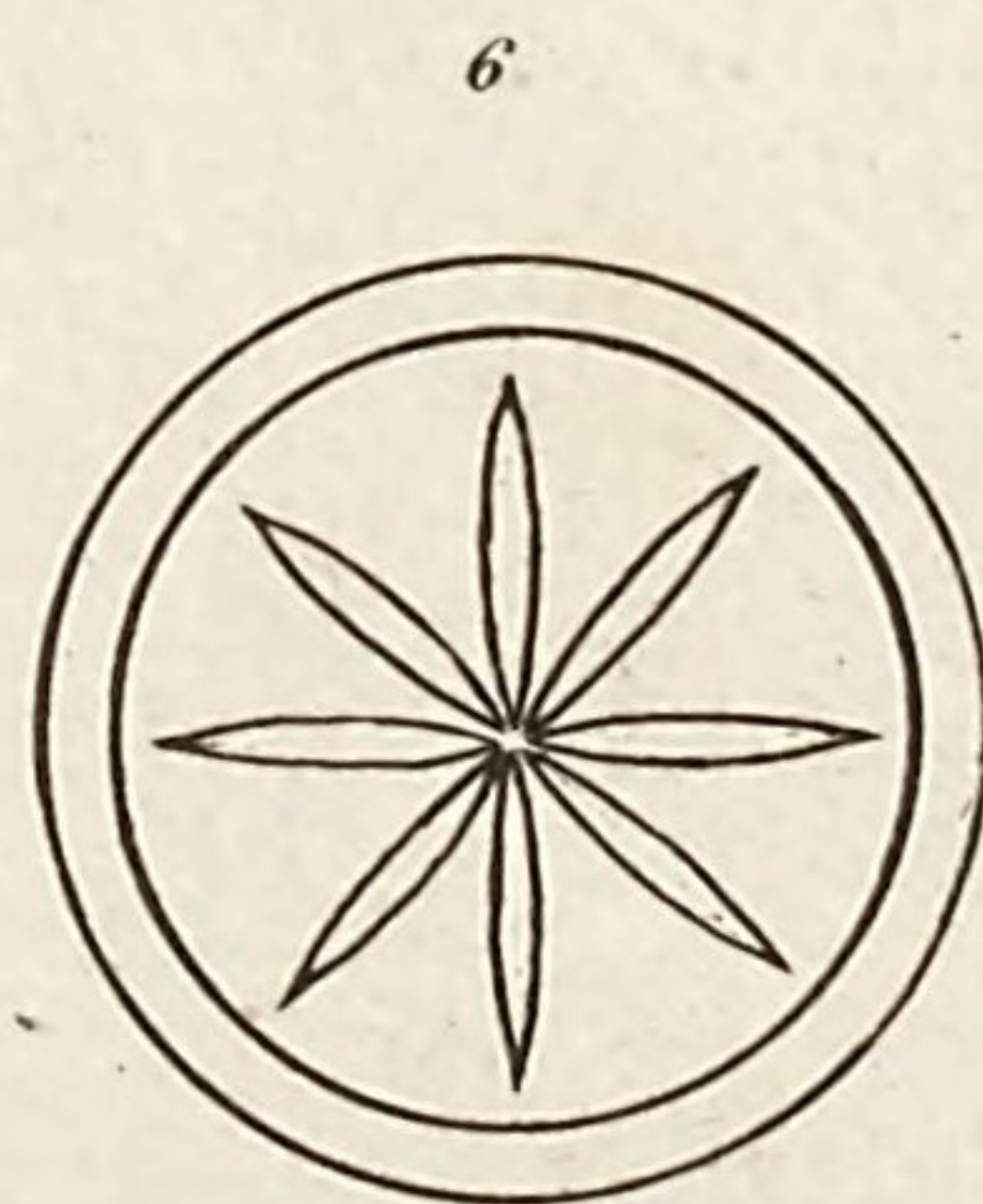
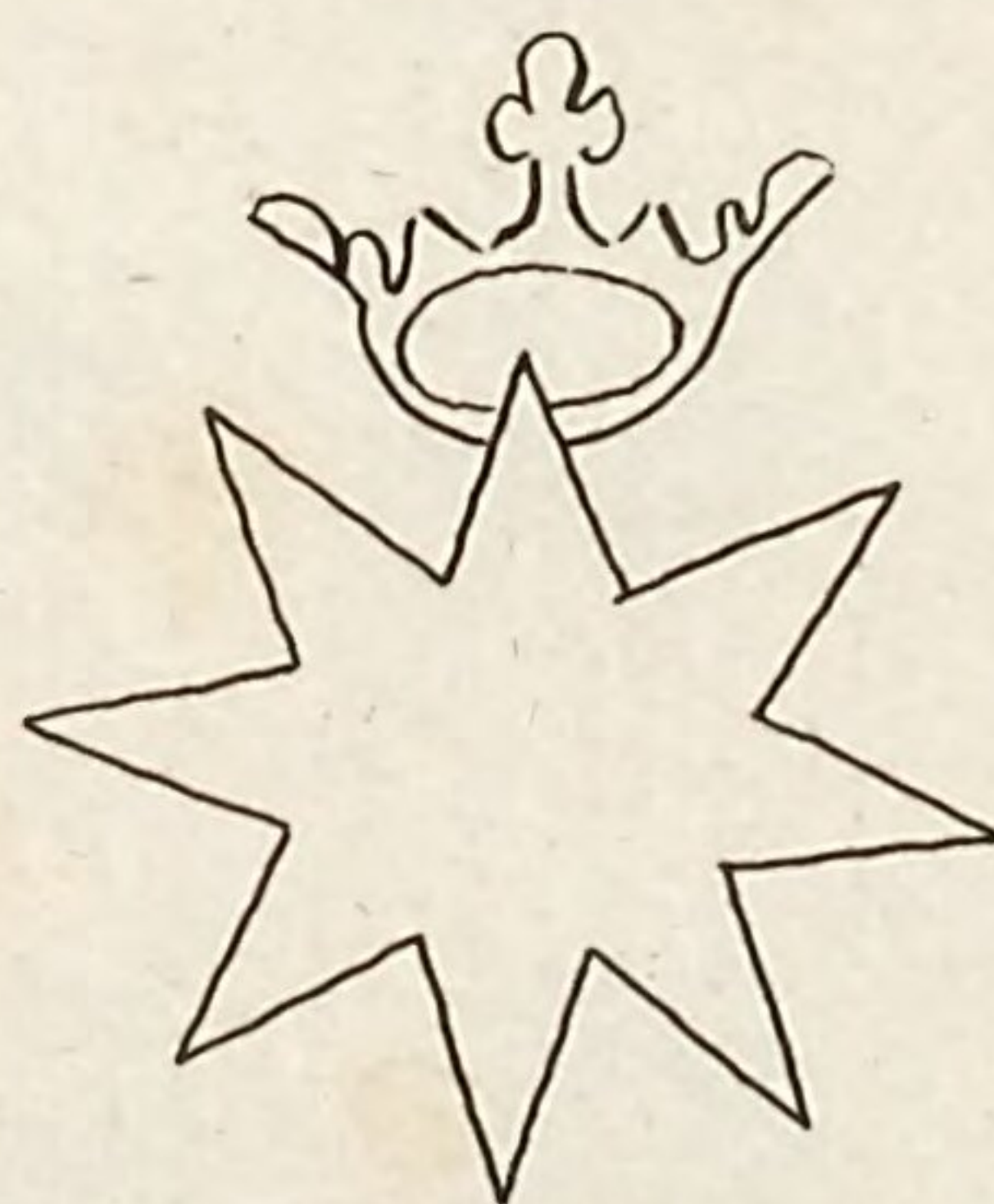
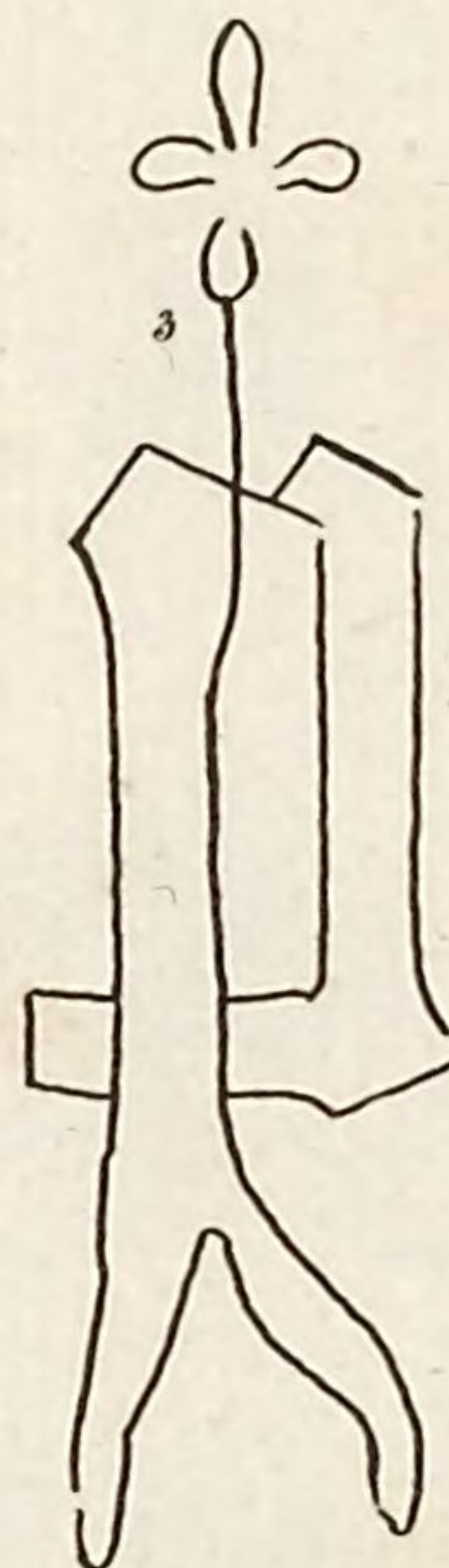
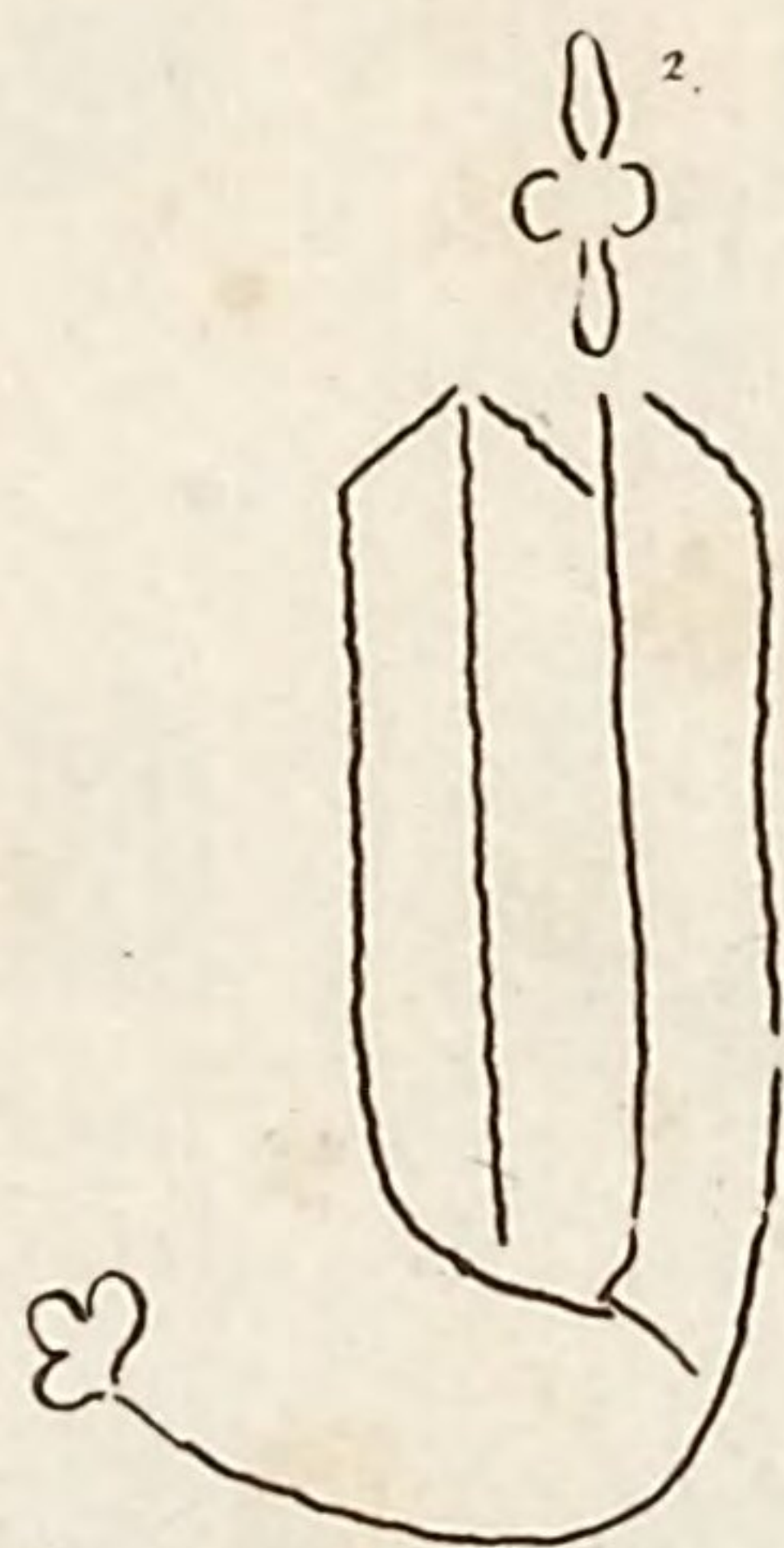
³¹
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
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6. 7. 8. 9. 10.
6 . 7 . 8 . 9 . 10 .

³²
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Paper Marks.

Richard III.....1483—1485.

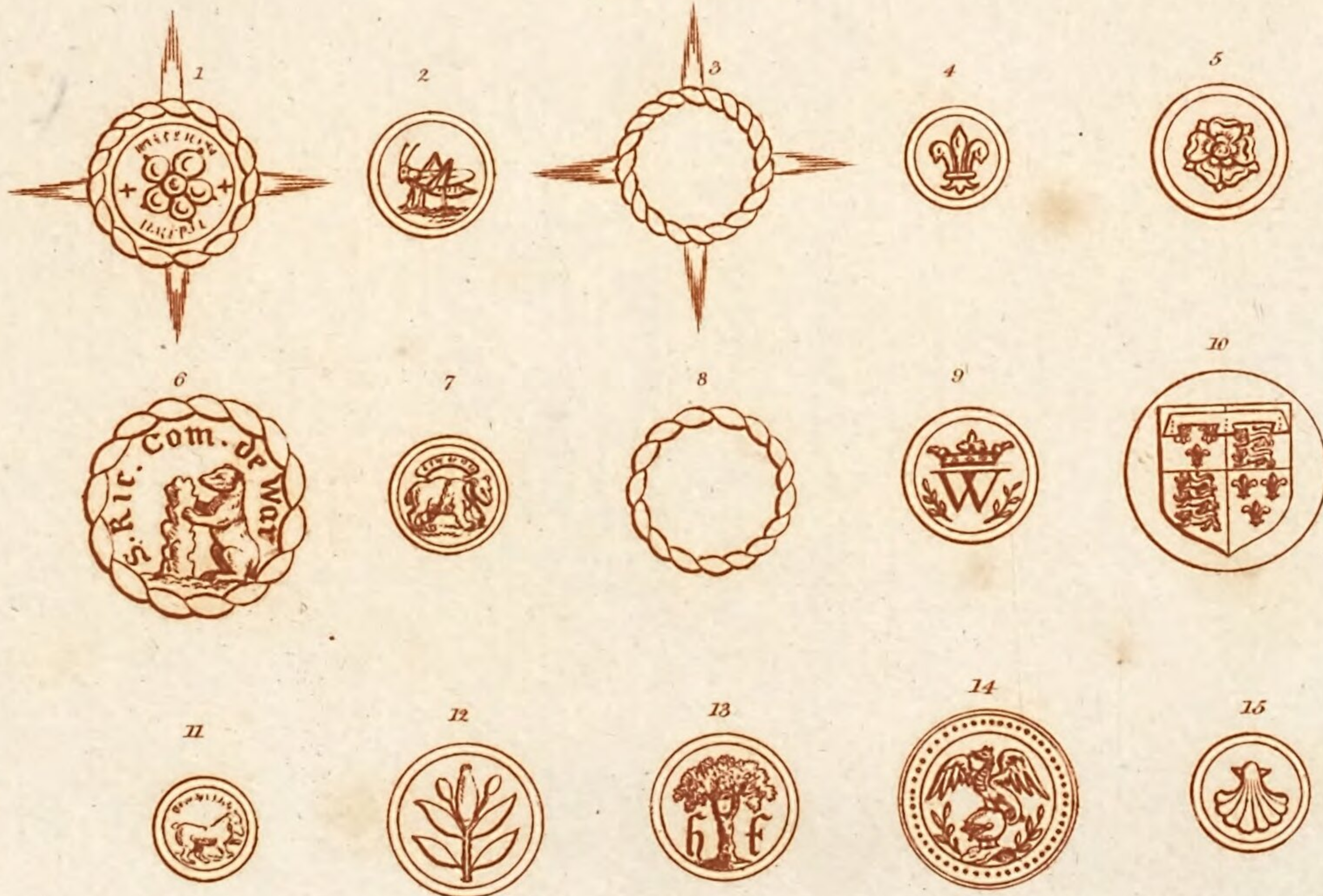


*These Paper Marks were all copied from the Originals,
in July 1785 by the Editors,*

J. P. Fenn

Seals.

Henry VI.



Edward IV.



Richard III.



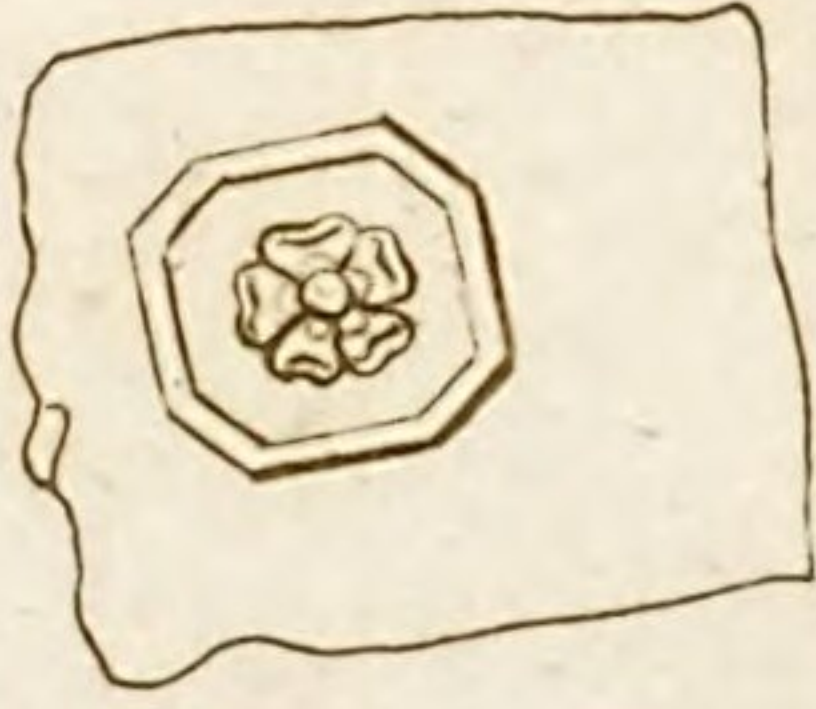
24th all goodly best prayers for
yours to our friends makes of us
honest of *Wm. B. B. B. B.*

Nº 2. *Letter III. Vol. II. p. 292.*

mostly person, every with it every place with to come
your Governor for my or for your the way to be happy
part of every of social to be which to you
please for good state say we not may it every
with returning me to my care kindly return

your friend & servants

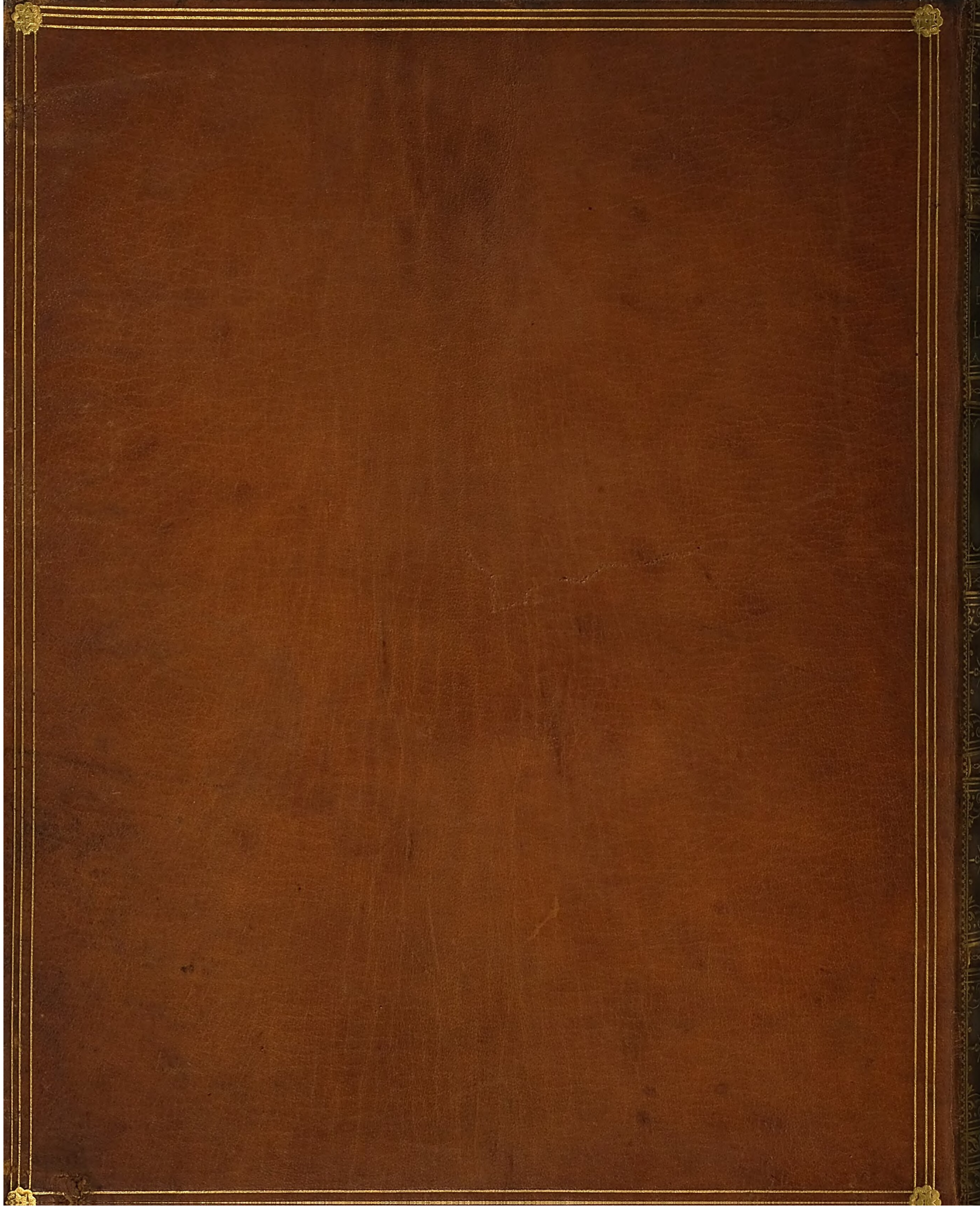
On to Jan ~~parton~~ in hat
 Extra Incyse Duff



22nd 200th in no vice to last at yet
 with many but by good agent and
 arranged for yet and me to my
 I off all day and to be comfort bell
 to all of your ed for friend Gaffney







Fenn, John

Original Letters written during the Reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV and
Richard III. by various Persons of Rank or Consequence

Bd.: 2. 1787

London 1787

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